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HISTORY

OF

Cerro Gordo County

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Historical Society's Collection, the Newspapers and Data of
Personal Interviews; also containing Sketches of
Representative Citizens.

COMPILED AND EDITED

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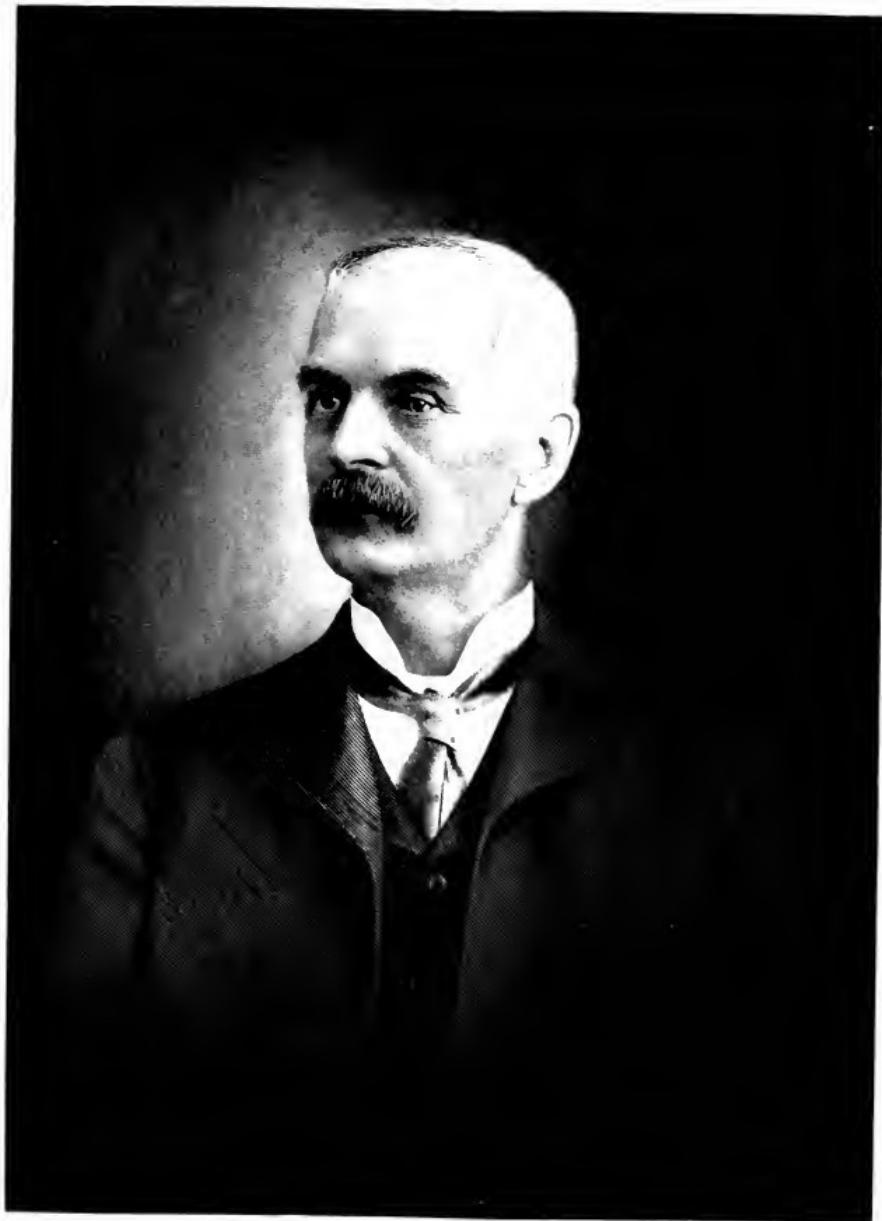
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Otto Denison

OWEN T. DENISON.

There is no need for conjecture or uncertainty in determining as to the value and success of the life of the late Owen T. Denison, who died at his home in Mason City on the morning of Thursday, April 7, 1910, for he realized in most significant sense that true success is not that gained through commercial pre-eminence or personal aggrandizement, but rather that which lies in the eternal verities of human sympathy and helpfulness. It was given him to attain large success in connection with the material activities of life, and none but worthy means contributed to this success, above which he left the gracious heritage of noble thoughts and noble deeds. He was a man of broad intellectuality and viewed life and its responsibilities in their true proportions. He was not given to half views or rash inferences, but was a man of strength and judgment and lofty motives. He was essentially the foremost citizen of Mason City and none has done as much to further the development and upbuilding of the city and of Cerro Gordo county along civic, industrial and commercial lines. Measured by its beneficence, its rectitude, its productiveness and its insistent altruism, his life counted for much in the city and county that so long represented his home, and it is most consonant that in this publication be paid a tribute of honor to one so worthy of the confidence and esteem that were uniformly accorded him. His death was the result of an attack of pneumonia, and a pathetic and yet consistent incident in connection with his passing to the "land o' the leal" was that his cherished and devoted wife, overpowered by her grief and loss, survived him by only a few hours, so that in death they were not divided.

Owen T. Denison was born at Brookfield, Madison county, New York, on the 28th of August, 1847, and was a son of Tracy and Mary (Randall) Denison, both of whom were likewise natives of Madison county, New York, where their marriage was solemnized on the 31st of January, 1836. The family finally moved to Clarksville, Albany county, New York, where they remained until 1857, when they emigrated to the west and settled as pioneers in Eau Claire county, Wisconsin, where the father secured a tract of

government land and reclaimed a farm from the wilderness. There he continued to reside until his death, which occurred on the 25th of June, 1877. In 1881 his widow removed to Mason City, Iowa, to be near her children and other relatives, and here her death occurred on the 16th of February, 1884. She was a sister of Elisha Randall, one of the honored and influential pioneers of Cerro Gordo county and one to whom a special memoir is dedicated on other pages of this publication.

Owen T. Denison gained his rudimentary education in the common schools of his native state and was a lad of about ten years at the time of the family removal to Wisconsin, where he was reared to maturity under the sturdy discipline of the pioneer farm and where he availed himself of such educational advantages as were afforded in the locality and period. His was a mind particularly alert and receptive and in the broad school of experience and through wide reading and study in a private way he effectively supplemented his early training, thus becoming a man of strong intellectuality and broad and exact information.

In 1867, when but twenty years of age, Mr. Denison came to Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, and cast in his lot with others of its sterling pioneers. He established his home in Mason City, and here he continued to reside until the close of his long and useful life. In offering an estimate of his life and labors no more consistent expression can be given than to perpetuate the statements made at the time of his demise by those familiar with his career, and thus the following extracts are made, with slight elimination and paraphrase, from an appreciative tribute paid by Hon. John Cliggitt, of Mason City, a lifetime acquaintance and friend.

"Owen T. Denison is dead. The people of Cerro Gordo county and many others throughout the state mourn his loss. From the time of his first residence here he took a serious and practical interest and was very prominent in all that related to the growth, improvement and advancement of Mason City and Cerro Gordo county. In official capacity he served the county as deputy recorder in 1869-70 and from January, 1871, to January, 1876, as recorder. From March, 1881, to March, 1882, he served as a member of the city council, and from March, 1885, to March, 1887, he was mayor of the city, and later he was a member of the board of county supervisors. These represent his share in the official life of the city and county. In all these positions he was active, diligent and faithful in discharge of the trust reposed in him—with him official station was not merely a matter of convenience, advantage or source of gain to the official, but a place of

trust, requiring intelligent, faithful, honest and diligent attention to public duty. No man has held office in the city or county who had a higher or more exalted conception of the obligation and responsibility of the public official than he had, and no one has more seriously put into active practice those ideals of duty than he did in all the official positions he held. The most important public improvement that has yet been accomplished in Mason City was the construction of our fine system of waterworks. During the year 1885, the first year of his term as mayor, the waterworks system became a successfully accomplished fact. During the entire time of the construction of these works Mr. Denison faithfully devoted his time and his intelligent and active energies in bringing the work to a successful conclusion. In conjunction with this work he brought together a company of active young men, who, under the inspiration of his zeal and interest in the public welfare, organized themselves into a volunteer fire company, and in honor of and as a compliment to the mayor the organization was named the Denison Hose Company. It continued to serve as a fire company until the recent organization of a regularly paid fire department. All of Mr. Denison's services as councilman and as mayor, including his many days and nights of thought, study and labor in the construction of the waterworks, *were done without pay or financial reward.* The construction of the waterworks involved an expenditure of about forty thousand dollars, and to use this money to the best public advantage required much knowledge of materials and their value, and of the theory and practice of water systems and their construction, and he possessed himself of the necessary information. The public money was in this instance economically expended with the greatest resulting benefits reaching down to the present time.

"But while not so well known, Mr. Denison's thought, studies and labors as an enterprising, active citizen in private life have resulted in great advantage and benefit to the people of this city and county. Very much of the improvement and advancement that have been made in agricultural, manufacturing and educational lines have been due to his zeal, energy and industrial activity in inspiring, encouraging and supporting them.

"For many years he was engaged in the banking business. In the winter of 1884-5 he went with a number of workmen to the quarries north of town and got out the stone of which the city bank building was constructed and personally superintended the construction of the building from the beginning to the completion thereof. While engaged in the banking business, he superintended

the construction and operation of a creamery. He operated a farm on which he erected and put into use a silo.

"He had from early days studied the subject of grasses suitable for this locality and urged the sowing of clover and bluegrass in order to increase and improve the pastorage and feeding capacity of much of our fertile land that seemed to be neglected, or not turned to so profitable use as it might be. In later years he has been active and energetic in encouraging and promoting improvements in crop raising, and as necessary thereto the matter of drainage, giving premiums to help stimulate the activity and ambitions of the younger generation of farmers to better and more careful and advanced methods. He had great interest in the matter of drainage, both of farm lands and of our public roads. In all this he was more concerned for the general public welfare that must result from such improvements than for any personal interest or gain that might result to him as a manufacturer of drainage material. He had studied very thoroughly the geological structure of northern Iowa and analyzed the soil, clay and rock formations of the country and so became familiar with their properties and learned their industrial value and the practical and profitable uses which they might be made to serve. He learned that brick and tile might be manufactured to an advantage here and an industry organized and carried on that would furnish employment to many workmen and add much to the general prosperity of the city, and as the result of his foresight and enterprise we have the present prosperous Mason City Brick and Tile Factory and three others in which he was very largely interested. All of these works were constructed and their machinery purchased and installed under his immediate care and supervision. These works were the inspiration of and pointed the way for others to engage in the manufacture of brick and tile, with the result that several of these factories besides those with which Mr. Denison was connected are now in successful operation and Mason City now holds prestige as being the largest manufacturing center of these products in the entire world. To Mr. Denison belongs the credit of being the pioneer in establishing this important industry in Cerro Gordo county.

"Several years ago Mr. Denison studied and experimented with our rock and sand formations and found that they were suitable for the manufacture of high grade cement. He had so informed many of our people and had given prominence to the fact through newspapers and other vehicles of public information. His work along this line had very much to do in starting the movement which finally resulted in our large cement plant.

"He believed in a system of education that will make good, upright, useful and accomplished men and women of the boys and girls of the present and coming generations, and so had great faith and interest in our common schools for the poor children of the land as well as for those of the rich. He believed in higher education and culture, but as the common schools are and will be the limit of opportunity for the large majority of children, he desired and used his influence so far as he could to have provided in them courses of instruction in some of the works and arts that make up so much of the means of livelihood and add so much to the support and comfort of the people. He was interested in manual training and looked to it as a great means of developing the talents that often lie dormant in the young, but which, with some early stimulus, may be made to work out very useful and beneficial results. He encouraged and, so far as he could, aided all business, educational and charitable enterprises and was liberal in contributions to promote and sustain them. The Memorial University, the public library, all of our churches, have been liberally aided by him. In the cement and other public buildings or enterprises he was a liberal investor and in a business and financial way his life has been a great success."

Concerning Mr. Denison, Col. James H. McConologue, of Mason City, gave an estimate of his character, from which the following quotations are made: "Of all the noble characters who have had a hand in shaping the destinies of Mason City from its earliest days no one has left his individual efforts, along moral and industrial lines, so permanently attached to the life of the city as Mr. Denison. Possessing a mind intensely active and well balanced by an exceptional judgment he forged his way, in an early day, through the unknown realms of industrial efforts and emerged from the darkness and unknown results into the broad sunlight of phenomenal success. Mr. Denison was possessed with a genius of a high order. In every problem he took up he sought the underlying philosophy and by indefatigable effort and energy he brushed aside the mists and haze that surround great problems and found the kernel and meat of such questions, after which he successfully worked out the solution. Not only was he great in the accomplishing of industrial and business enterprises but he was a leader in the moral affairs that make up our social life. He loved sobriety, he loved honesty, he loved purity in the home and individual life and all of these manfully practiced during his whole career. A dominant trait of his character was the beautiful virtue of charity; and his was the purest charity. It sought not the lime-

light, it never paraded gaudily to receive applause and commendation, but quietly, innocently and timidly, the angel of Mr. Denison's charity went to all, aiding and assisting where it could, encouraging by good advice and often materially aiding wherever it was possible so to do. The years to come will bring to light the great good that was done along these lines by this great citizen of Mason City. He loved his fellow men of every creed and of every opinion and was glad when the individual advanced along the road of prosperity to the goal of well doing and well being . . . He was without ostentation or parade and was religious in thought, purpose and mode of living. In many ways and often and at different places he gave liberally to the aid of persons in distress or trouble. No one will ever know how much he has done in this way because his many acts of kindness and beneficence were done quietly and privately."

In polities Mr. Denison gave his support in a generic way to the Republican party but in this, as in all other relations of life, he maintained an independent attitude and never lacked the courage of his convictions, giving his support to all men and measures meeting the approval of his judgment. He was a member of the Congregational church, as was also his devoted wife, and signal purity and fidelity characterized his life in all its relations. His devotion to principle was inflexible and better than this cannot be said of any man. It has become a trite saying to pronounce the death of a prominent citizen an irreparable loss to the community, but there is no impropriety in the utilizing of the expression in connection with this honored citizen of Cerro Gordo county, for the people of the community have given definite recognition of their appreciation of the fact.

The home life of Mr. Denison was ideal in character and in a review of this order there can be no desire to lift the gracious veil that guarded the sacred precincts of the home. It has been noted that Mr. Denison died on the morning of April 7, 1910, and on the following Saturday night his wife likewise passed to the eternal life. She had been in precarious health for some time and her extreme grief over the death of her husband undoubtedly caused her death. On the 19th of December, 1871, at Waterford, Wisconsin, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Denison to Miss Orpha A. Willard, who was born in that place on the 24th of April, 1848, and was a daughter of George and Mary (Ransome) Willard, who later established their home in Mason City, Iowa, where they passed the residue of their lives. Mr. and Mrs. Denison became the parents of three children: Mary, who is now the wife of Frederick

E. Keeler, of Mason City; Lynn W., who is associated with his brother-in-law in the continuing of the various enterprises with which his father had been identified; and Willard, who died in infancy. Mr. Denison is also survived by three sisters, all of whom reside in Mason City—Mrs. Selah Allen, Mrs. Ella Stevens and Miss Libby Denison. Concerning Mrs. Denison the following statements are taken from the Mason City *Globe-Gazette*, of April 11, 1910.

"Broken like a frail flower in the face of the storm of grief which came to her in the death of her husband but a few hours before, Mrs. Owen T. Denison passed away at 11:15 o'clock Saturday night, after lingering since the first physical collapse when she saw the lines of death stamped upon the beloved face whose heart's devotion for a lifetime had been hers.

"At no time in its history has Mason City been so stirred up as at this time. Sorrow struck deep when its foremost citizen was called, but today it comes with a force with all the proportions of a tragedy when the wife, whose share in the life work of Owen Denison counted for so much, passed beyond. Though the disease had made its inroads, of late the chances were for complete recovery and a long lease of life, till cruel disease struck down her husband; but from the first moment that hope fled the hope of living became nothing. 'A broken heart,' said the physicians and attendants, 'did its work.'

"Distinctively a lover of the home-life, Mrs. Denison had a heart full of sympathy and love for others, and scores of friends, who knew her best and have been close to her in life, tell of the kindly ministry to the sick and unfortunate in scores of Mason City homes. Whatever is due to the memory of O. T. Denison as a man whose sympathies were broader than the daily routine of business life, is as much due his wife, for her charities were sweet and were just as manifold and came with the tenderness of a loving woman.

"Their home was an ideal one. Love abounded, was nurtured and grew strong from the beginning. Married after a romantic courtship, their hearts were happily linked with a bond of mutual sympathy that went outside the four walls of their home. Through a mutual friend their first acquaintance was through a letter written by the husband, then a young man and a county official. This first letter resulted in a correspondence, later a visit to her home in Wisconsin and finally their marriage. With every recurrence of that date a wedding journey has been taken that years only increased in pleasures. The tie which was cemented by years of devotion could not remain broken long without being reunited."

JAMES RULE.

A strong and noble character was that of the late General James Rule, who died at his home in Mason City on the 28th of November, 1907, and measured by its beneficence, its rectitude, its productiveness, its optimism and its material success, his life, counted for good in its every relation. He played a large part in the civic and material development and upbuilding of Cerro Gordo county, where he took up his abode when a young man and where he rose through his own forces and ability to a position of prominence and influence, the while he ever commanded secure vantage place in the unqualified confidence and high regard of all who knew him. A life guided by high ideals and regulated by the strictest adherence to principle was that of the honored subject of this memoir, and no man could be more essentially human, more free from asceticism, more altruistic and more ready to find good in "all sorts and conditions of men." He meant much to Mason City and Cerro Gordo county, and they meant much to him, so that in every publication purporting to take cognizance of the lives and labors of the representative citizens of this county, must, if consistency is to be conserved, accord a tribute to the one whose name initiates this article. It is gratifying to be able to present such tribute in this volume largely by recourse to words of appreciation uttered by those familiar with his career and bound to him by ties of friendship. The following extracts are well worthy of reproduction in this connection:

"As the years relentlessly mark the milestones on this pathway of time, the older generation slowly gives way to the new, and gradually there pass from our midst the men who made our country what it is and who built up this western empire for the men of now. In every generation and every community some few men leave an indelible imprint upon the history of that community and upon the memories of those who have known them by their ability to fight and win, even against great odds, and by that kind of character which wins lasting friends because of that innate quality which people know as loyalty. James Rule, who passed into the great beyond, was one of those.

"The life story of James Rule is one which is inseparably connected with the history of our community and interwoven with all the important events in our development. As a young man he was strong, vigorous and self-reliant. He trusted in his own ability and did things single handed and alone. His intellect was keen, his personality was strong and forceful, he stood by his friends



James Rule

with all his might and to the last extremity. He was an infallible judge of human nature and the deserving always received help from him. Many young men in this county got their start to prosperity through him, many a young farmer now owns a farm because James Rule helped him to get started. He was an active and intense worker and it was finally his terribly close application to his duties that brought about his illness which has afflicted him for the last few years.

"James Rule was a noble illustration of what independence, self-faith, self-reliance and lofty ideals can accomplish in America. He was absolutely self-made. No one helped him in a financial way and he was self-educated. His early education was gleaned from the district schools in Wisconsin in the winter time. He worked in the summer always to help the family exchequer. At fourteen he had to give up his educational facilities and yet his intellect was so keen and his purpose to become educated so persistent that he mastered the German language with other studies and became so proficient in it that he taught it to others as a tutor. He loved literature and oratory and though not an orator himself he was a superior judge of the divine gift. He was as strong too, in body as in mind up till the day when he fell on the sidewalk of Mason City, the culmination of overwork, and during his active life in his young manhood and middle age, it can be said that there was no more forceful or more resourceful character in the country. He was a typical knight in his active days, entering all lists, dealing and taking forceful blows with good nature, gallant in every political contest, chivalrous to the one who needed help, fighting their battles for them and never asking self-preferment. In the strenuous polities of this county he was always endeavoring to help someone else and when he became a financial factor he followed the same trait and many owe their start in material prosperity to him. Defeat was not in his dictionary, but optimism and courage were written large therein. He mingled freely with all classes, he was an aristocrat in intellect and the larger world of real culture.

"General Rule devoted much time to serious thought. Especially was this true of the later days of his life. He was a splendid scholar, much of it secured, as we term it, from the universe of nature. He knew men and he knew methods. He was resourceful, possessing patience, courage, business sagacity and remarkable foresight. He did not jump into the prominence he held in the community and in the state. He came to it by slow growth. He was loyal to his friends and was not severe with those who politi-

eally or in any way disagreed with him. He was liberal-minded, yet with a conviction settled, he was unfaltering in defense. He believed in humanity and he believed in a just and true God. In life General Rule was an unassuming man. He gave largely to public affairs. To everything that had a tendency to help along benevolent or philanthropic enterprises he was able and he willingly contributed. As a public-spirited man, Mason City owes more to the work of General Rule than to any other of its residents. His money he invested largely in city property, and at the time of his death there were a number of monuments standing in honor of his faith in this city. We have said that he did not come into prominence by leaps and bounds. As Bishop Fowler says: 'Greatness is of slow growth.' General Rule grew slowly yet surely. In early days he was a stone mason, and a good one he was, for that was one of the early principles he adopted: 'Whatever is worth doing is worth doing well.' He was popular and he stepped into official position in the county and he kept on stepping, until he finally was made president of the City National Bank, one of the leading financial institutions of this section of the state. He was born with a military spirit deeply imbedded in him, and from a private he rose to the rank of captain of the local company. And still he was ambitious and finally he climbed to the highest office in the Iowa National Guard—that of General. General Rule possessed a big, warm heart. He was a friend to a friend and a friend of the helpless. No one ever turned toward that big warm heart in times of need but that he found a cordial response. He will be missed. The bells have tolled his departing, but in the hearts of very many people he will live on and on."

General James Rule was born in Green Lake county, Wisconsin, on the 11th of June, 1846, and was the son of James and Mary (Cameron) Rule, who were born and reared in Scotland, where their marriage was solemnized and whence they emigrated to America in 1844. In his native county, the subject of this memoir was reared to maturity and his early educational facilities were limited to a somewhat desultory attendance in the county schools of the pioneer days. When sixteen years of age, he went to the city of St. Louis, Missouri, for the purpose of volunteering his services in the Union army, but on account of his youth he was rejected. He was determined, however, that he would in some manner show his distinctive loyalty and through his pertinacity he was finally assigned to a position in the ordnance department of the Second Division of the Army of the Frontier, under General Herron. He served in this capacity the last six months and came home with his

company. After receiving his honorable discharge he returned to Wisconsin, where he followed farm work and other occupations until the spring of 1865, when he accompanied his parents on their removal to Cerro Gordo county; Iowa, where they located on a farm in Lincoln township. Concerning his advancement from that time forward the following succinct statements have been made: "He worked on the farm during the summer and taught school during the winter, by way of getting a start. In 1868 he became a resident of Mason City, commencing to work as a mason and contractor, forming a partnership with D. Farrell and later with his father-in-law, Thomas K. Gale. In 1870 he was appointed deputy county treasurer under H. I. Smith, working at his trade in the summer and in the treasurer's office in the winter. In 1872 he was, himself, elected to the office of county treasurer, in which he succeeded himself by re-election in 1874 and again in 1876, thus serving for a total period of eight years. In 1880, General Rule became interested with T. G. Emsley and O. T. Denison in the City National Bank, which was an evolution from a private bank, and he served as vice president of this institution until 1890, when he was made president, an office of which he continued incumbent until 1899, when he retired from active connection with the bank on account of ill health and for the purpose of giving his attention to his private interests.

In politics General Rule was a staunch supporter of the cause of the Republican party, but was not a member of any church. He was affiliated with the Masonic fraternity and in the same was at one time eminent commander of the commandery of the Knights Templars in Mason City, where he also held membership in the lodges of the Knights of Pythias and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

On September 27, 1871, was solemnized the marriage of General Rule to Miss Jennie A. Gale, a daughter of Thomas K. Gale, who was long one of the representative and influential citizens of Mason City. Mrs. Rule was born April 4, 1853, in Portland, England, and was four years old when she came to America, the family locating in Iowa Falls in 1857, where she was educated in the high school and in Elsworth College of Iowa Falls. In 1870 she came to Mason City and was an active worker in the Methodist church. During this time she was president of the Marshalltown district for five years of the Woman's Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal church. She was one of the charter members and officers of Unity Chapter, No. 58, Eastern Star of Mason City and in 1895-6 was Grand Matron of the state. She served as

grand treasurer of the state for eight years, and in 1902 was made secretary of the Board of Trustees to locate and build an Eastern Star home, which was dedicated October 18, 1905, at Boone, Iowa. The edifice costing about \$40,000, was built and maintained by the Eastern Star and is the only one in the world. Mrs. Rule and Mrs. Jennie E. Mathews solicited the first \$3,000. Mrs. Rule has been very active in the building and maintaining of the above, she having devoted a great deal of time to the work.

Mrs. Rule survives her honored husband and of their three children, the one daughter died in infancy. Two sons, Arthur L. and Harold V., still reside in Mason City, and concerning them individual mention is made on other pages of this work. The parents of General Rule continued to reside in this county until their death, and of their children there are now living: Duncan, who is an attorney and a resident of Mason City; Mary, who is the wife of Lyman Leach, of Mason City; and Belle, who is the wife of George D. Taylor, of Minneapolis, Minnesota. At the time of the death of General Rule the following general orders were issued from the office of the adjutant general of the state under date of November 29, 1907, by order of the governor:

"The death of the late Brigadier General James Rule at his home in Mason City, Iowa, at nine o'clock p. m., November 28, 1907, is announced with sorrow. General Rule has an honorable record as a soldier in the Civil war and in the Iowa National Guard, and his comrades mourn his death.

"The military record of General Rule was as follows: Driver of ordnance train, Second Division Frontier Missouri and Arkansas from November, 1863, to May, 1864; Sergeant, Company A, Sixth Regiment, Iowa National Guard, July, 1873; second lieutenant, November 9, 1873; captain, July 11, 1884; major, September 21, 1891; lieutenant colonel, Fourth Regiment, April 30, 1892; brigadier general, Second Brigade, November 23, 1894; term expired November 23, 1899."

In conclusion of this brief memoir an extract is made from a long appreciated estimate of life and services of General Rule, the same having been written by his life-long and intimate friend, Hon. John C. Sherwin:

"I need but say little about Mr. Rule's place in this community for his place and position are manifest and speak for themselves. Time can never efface the impress his ability, character and citizenship has left. Until his physical power was weakened by a serious illness some years ago he was easily the foremost in everything touching the advancement and welfare of this city. His strength,

courage and influence were manifest in all matters of public interest, and no man gave more of his time or gave it more unselfishly for the public good than he did. But however great his achievements in other matters, they are not to be compared with the wealth, strength and beauty of his friendships. James Rule was a true friend in the fullest sense of the word. No road was too long, no night was too dark, no weather too inclement to deter him from needed service. His friend's cause was his own, and he championed it with the same vigor and determination that he brought to the conduct of his own affairs. He was one of the comparatively few men whose friendship was so deep and true that he never found it a burden. The loyalty of such friendship is second only to loyalty to one's country.

"General Rule's acute illness began a little over a year ago, and during all of the weary intervening months there were frequent periods of the most intense pain and suffering, yet through it all he displayed the same bravery and force of character which were so characteristic of his active life. His great and tender love for his devoted wife and children made him tenacious of life, and, even after he knew that recovery was impossible, he battled on for the life that had been intrusted to him, as only brave men battle. But the conflict had been an uneven one from its inception, and a few days before the end came he fully realized that he could stay with his loved ones but a little longer. The end finally came as he had anticipated, and in the silence of the quiet and beautiful Thanksgiving evening he heard the great waves breaking on the farther shore and felt already upon his wasted brow the breath of the eternal morning."

HAROLD V. RULE.

In view of the nomadic spirit which is growing to animate all classes of American citizens to move restlessly about from place to place, it is most pleasing to the publishers of this work to be able to incorporate within its pages a sketch of the career of one who has passed practically his entire life in the place of his nativity and who commands the confidence and esteem of those who have been familiar with his career from the time of his birth. Harold V. Rule was born in Mason City, Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, on the 4th of February, 1879, and is a son of General James and Jennie (Gale) Rule, to the memory of the former of whom a sketch is dedicated on other pages of this work so that further reference to the family history is not deemed necessary.

at this point. Harold V. Rule received his preliminary educational training in the public and high schools of his native city and this discipline was later effectively supplemented by a course of study in the Shattuck Military Academy, at Faribault, Minnesota, in which excellent institution he was captain of his company at the time of his graduation in 1898. In 1899 he was matriculated in Columbia University, in the city of New York, where he spent one year in the electrical and mining department. While home on his vacation he contracted typhoid fever and he never returned to complete his college course. Prior to his father's death he was employed in the City National Bank for a time and in 1909 he engaged in bookkeeping as expert accountant, being at the present time (1910) employed by the order of the Modern Woodmen of America, at Mason City.

In politics Mr. Rule has ever adhered to the principles and policies of the Republican party and though he has never manifested aught of desire for political honors he has done all in his power to further the civic and material progress of his home city and county. Fraternally he is affiliated with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and both he and his wife are devout members of the Episcopal church, in whose faith they were reared.

In 1904 was recorded the marriage of Mr. Rule to Miss Corry Bowman, who was born and reared at Waverly, Iowa, where her birth occurred in 1880, and who is a daughter of W. R. and Emma (Winne) Bowman. Mr. Bowman is a representative citizen of Waverly, Iowa, where he is engaged in the sugar beet industry. Mrs. Bowman is deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Rule have no children.

ANDREW JACKSON BARKER.

Andrew Jackson Barker was born in Packwaukee, Marquette county, Wisconsin, January 20, 1857. His parents were Charles Grandison Barker and Alice Doyle Barker.

Charles Grandison Barker was a son of John Barker, of Cairo, Green county, New York, who was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and whose father, known as Patroon Barker, was the owner of four thousand acres of land held under a grant from Queen Anne. In the early days of Wisconsin, Charles Grandison Barker had a farm on the borders of Fond du Lac and Dodge counties, near the present site of Waupun. Nine years before the birth of the subject of this sketch, he bought land from the government in what had been an Indian reservation, further west, at Packwaukee, and, removing thither with his family in a covered wagon, made a

new home in the wilderness and helped to extend the borders of civilization. He served two years in the volunteer army of the Union, during the Civil war, his knowledge of mechanics, recognized by the officers, leading to his employment in the construction of hospitals at Chattanooga and on Lookout Mountain.

The early childhood of Andrew Jackson Barker, passed amid rural scenes, familiarized him with the pursuits of the farm. He attended the village school at Packwaukee, and at the age of fifteen was sent to St. Louis University, then at the corner of Ninth Street and Washington Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri, where he was a student in the Commercial Department in 1872-3 and 1873-4. After leaving the university, he married Mary Price, daughter of L. T. and Mary A. Price, who also was a native of Wisconsin, born at Ceresco, now Ripon, in Fond du Lac county. Together with his bride, he went to work in the woods of Northern Wisconsin, and worked hard. The measure of success which has come to him in later years has been due in no small part to his indisposition to shirk the necessity of labor.

In June, 1876, accompanied by his sister, Mr. Barker paid his first visit to Mason City, then a small but prosperous and promising town. He was farm-hunting, and the place which most attracted his attention was the Miller and Brownell farm of 220 acres, with fine improvements, now the property of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Company. Having been brought up in a wooded country, he could not at first accustom himself to the waving, treeless prairie, which impressed him as very lonesome. He returned to Wisconsin, but made subsequent trips to Iowa in 1877 and again in 1878, and in the latter year purchased from William Newbauer a tract of 136 acres, three and one-half miles east of Mason City and two miles northwest of Portland, in the township of that name. The only building upon the place was a small shaek, 16 feet by 20, used as bachelor quarters by two lads who were cultivating the land. Subsequently, he purchased from Alonzo Felt 90 acres, a portion of the well known Felt farm.

The winter of 1878-9 was spent by Mr. Barker, with one hired man, in hauling from Mason City quarries 140 cords of stone for buildings which he intended to erect. Curiosity was aroused by the huge stone piles that he accumulated, and the general belief was that he meant to raise buildings of that material. Eventually, however, it appeared that these were to be only the foundations of structures which were to make "Rock Rest" the show farm of Cerro Gordo county. The following spring and summer there were shipped from Milwaukee fitted timbers and lumber for the

superstructure of the house, barns and sheds, which were constructed by masons and carpenters brought from Milwaukee. While the work was going on, Mr. and Mrs. Barker boarded from fifteen to thirty-six carpenters and masons, who lived in a camp on the hill. After the buildings were completed an orchard was planted, and spruce, Norway pines, elms and other trees were set out to embellish the grounds about the house.

On this farm, which he still owns, Mr. Barker was soon embarked in enterprises which, by reason of the contribution they made to the raising of the grade of farm animals in this section of the state, have a place in the agricultural history of Iowa. In the spring after the buildings were finished he purchased from Governor Harrison Ludington of Wisconsin the thoroughbred Short-horn bull, "The Governor," and the registered full-blooded Clydesdale stallion, "Ben Lomond." Next year found him established in stock and dairy farming, his dairy herd including thirty-three cows. A year later he purchased a full-blooded first-prize heifer at the Wisconsin State Fair, but suffered the misfortune of losing her a week after her arrival, her death probably being due to careless feeding while she was at the fair. His next purchase was made from the Charles T. Bradley farm, near Milwaukee—a two-year old Hambletonian colt, "Knickerbocker," which he renamed "Cerro Gordo Bay," the first thoroughbred road horse owned in Cerro Gordo county. This horse was numbered 6,752 in Wallace's Record. He lived to the age of twenty-two, and was in use at "Rock Rest" farm until a year before his death. Many of his get are still in existence and much prized by their owners.

Later Mr. Barker gave his attention to improved dairy cattle and also became a raiser of Poland China hogs for breeding. From Rust Brothers, of Greenfield, near Milwaukee, he bought a two-year old Holstein bull which was the head of his herd for three years, but which later, even after dehorning, proved so vicious, imperiling the lives of his keepers, that he was killed. This tragic end, however, did not come to the strenuous animal till after he had performed valuable service in introducing the Holstein strain in Cerro Gordo county, which previously had been given over almost exclusively to Shorthorns.

On one of his visits to the Wisconsin State Fair, Mr. Barker bought from Weight & Sons, of Whitewater, a pig of the Tecumseh breed which had carried off the first prize at the fair offered for the best male pig over six months old. It was the first of its breed ever shipped west of the Mississippi river, but for some reason failed to please Mr. Barker, who sold it to a neighbor. In the

hands of the latter it proved very profitable, "building a barn and raising a mortgage."

While engaged in his stock improvement enterprises, Mr. Barker attended to the daily delivery of the products of his dairy farm to a creamery at Portland. After nineteen years of assiduous labor on his farm, having no children to assist him in his work, and having by his own and his wife's economy acquired sufficient means to justify him in dispensing with the drudgery essential to successful farming, he concluded to re-arrange his mode of life. In 1893 he had built a house and barn at the corner of Eleventh street and Adams avenue, Mason City. In 1897 he moved to Mason City, occupying this house. In 1901 he purchased the beautiful residence, 322 West Eleventh street, where he now resides.

There are people unacquainted with the life of the farmer as exemplified by progressive Americans, who suppose that those committed to it are shut out from the elegancies and amenities of existence. Many instances might be adduced to demonstrate the error of this assumption. Mr. Barker's home at "Rock Rest" was tastefully and artistically furnished, containing pictures and books, and in it from time to time he hospitably entertained; among his guests who heartily appreciated the practical significance of the work which he was accomplishing for the improvement of agriculture being his brother-in-law, the late William E. Cramer of Milwaukee, the veteran editor of *The Evening Wisconsin*, who himself had been early impressed with the importance of progressive farming while a boy at Waterford, New York. Notwithstanding his devotion to his vocation while at "Rock Rest," Mr. Barker found time for avocations of a public character, and served two terms as one of the trustees of Portland township. He has also served as under-sheriff of Cerro Gordo county. In politics he is a Republican. In fraternal association, he is identified with the Modern Brotherhood of America, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Court of Honor.

JOHN CLIGGITT.

Numbered among the most distinguished members of the bar of Cerro Gordo county and where he has been engaged in the practice of his profession for nearly forty years, Mr. Cliggitt has not only attained to marked precedence in his profession but he has also been an influential factor in public affairs in his county and state. He has given the full force of

his influence to advancing the civil and material development and progress of his home city and county, and no citizen has a more secure vantage place in the popular confidence and esteem of the community. His career has been one of close and consecutive application to the work of his profession and he has ever stood the exponent of liberal and public-spirited practice.

John Cliggitt was born in Montgomery county, New York, on the 25th of August, 1840. When he was one year old his parents moved to Burlington, Vermont, where he secured his rudimentary education in the public school, which he there continued to attend until May, 1850, when the family removed to the west and located in Madison, the capital of the state of Wisconsin, where they remained until the following autumn, when they removed to Naperville, Du Page county, Illinois, where they remained until December, 1851. They next removed to Kendall county, that state.

John Cliggitt, the immediate subject of this review, contributed his quota to the work of the home farming and continued his residence in Kendall county, Illinois, until his removal to Iowa in 1871. He duly availed himself of the advantages of the common schools in Illinois, attending the same during the winter terms and assisting in the work of the farm during the summer months. He applied himself diligently and finally was able to complete the prescribed course in the high school at Oswego, Illinois. He taught several terms of school and in 1865 he began the study of law, to which he devoted his attention at all spare times during his pedagogic and other work. In the autumn of 1868 he entered the Chicago Law School, in which institution he finished his work in 1869. In February of that year he was admitted to practice in the supreme court of Illinois and in June, 1871, shortly after his arrival in Mason City, Iowa, he was admitted to practice in the district court of Cerro Gordo county. Here he has continued to devote his attention to the work of his profession during the long intervening years. In 1873 he was admitted to the supreme court of the state at its term held in April of that year in the city of Dubuque, and he later was admitted to the United States district and circuit courts for Iowa.

In September, 1871, Mr. Cliggitt entered into a partnership alliance with Charles Husted, and the firm of Husted & Cliggitt continued in practice in Mason City until the spring of 1875, when Mr. Husted moved elsewhere. Mr. Cliggitt thereupon became a member of the law firm of Miller & Cliggitt, the senior member of which was Captain George R. Miller who had been for several years previously a member of the firm of Card & Miller. The

partnership alliance between Miller and Cliggitt proved most grateful and successful and was severed only by the death of Mr. Miller in October, 1886. In 1889 the firm of Cliggitt & Rule was formed, composed of the subject of this sketch and Duncan Rule, and both are now members of the strong and well known firm of Cliggitt, Rule, Keeler & Smith. B. C. Keeler entered the firm in 1898 and Earl Smith became a member thereof in April, 1908.

Mr. Cliggitt's life and labors in Iowa have been devoted to the study and practice of law. For a short time each he held the offices of justice of the peace, recorder of the incorporated town of Mason City, and secretary of the independent school district of Mason City. In March, 1880, he assumed the office of mayor of his home city and he continued as the chief executive of the municipal government until March, 1884. During his incumbency of the office of mayor, in 1882, he directed the work of changing the municipal organization of Mason City from that of an incorporated town to that of a city of the second class, in which position it has since been assigned.

In politics Mr. Cliggitt has been and is a Democrat, believing in the great generic and fundamental principles of the Democratic party as taught by its great leaders from Jefferson to Cleveland and Carlisle. He was a delegate to the national convention which in 1884 met in Chicago and nominated Grover Cleveland as candidate for the presidency and he supported the policies of Mr. Cleveland through his two presidential terms. He much regretted what he judged to be a great and serious error of the party in pledging itself to the unlimited coinage of silver at the ratio of sixteen to one. This he believed to have been historically and logically a doctrine of the Republican party, and he maintained that that party should have been left to cherish and support it or abandon it as the case might be. On account of the radical silver issue wrongfully imposed on the party, as he believed, Mr. Cliggitt refused to give his support to William J. Bryan as the presidential candidate of the Democratic party and he therefore gave his support to Palmer and Buckner, commonly designated as the Gold Democratic ticket. Circumstances called him from his home state at election time and consequently he was unable to exercise his franchise in support of the ticket mentioned. Since 1896 he has voted for the presidential nominees of the party as the issues advocated by the party since that time have in most respects been acceptable to him and met the approval of his judgment.

Mr. Cliggitt has been nominee of his party as candidate for representative in congress, district judge and judge of the supreme

court of his state, but on each occasion he has met defeat with the party ticket in general, under the heavy, normal majority of Republican votes. In 1897 the convention of gold-standard Democrats, desiring to restore the party in Iowa to "sane and safe" Democratic policies and doctrines, nominated a full state ticket and Mr. Cliggitt was named as its candidate for governor. The nominees for this ticket received but a small vote at the election but they still believed that their efforts toward the restoration of the party in great measure to proper principles have borne good results.

Mr. Cliggitt has ever had great interest and faith in our common school system and its great and beneficent influence and calling. He strongly believes in keeping and supporting it for the education and uplifting of the many,—the children of the poor as well as those of the wealthy. He is not affiliated with any of the church denominations but has been a free contributer and attendant most of them. He believes in a supreme being, the immortality of the soul and the basic doctrines of Christianity and he has a deep reverence for the spiritual verities. Besides his law studies he has kept in line a course of general reading and study so far as his time and strength have permitted and this has been directed along historical, literary and scientific channels. He has taken great pride in the growth and progress of Mason City, where he fully intends to pass the residue of his life and which has for so many years represented the scene of his trials and labors as well as that of his generous measure of success.

On the 1st of September, 1879, Mr. Cliggitt was united in marriage to Miss Ella C. Brightman, who was born and reared in the state of New York, and in their attractive home, at 216 East Ninth street, they delight in dispensing hospitality to their wide circle of friends.

GEORGE W. BRETT.

There is all of consistency in designating Mr. Brett as one of the most progressive and public spirited citizens of Cerro Gordo county, where he is associated with his father in the ownership of the largest landed estate in the county and where he has had the active management of the same for many years. He also makes a specialty of the real estate and loan business and maintains his offices in the old postoffice building in Mason City. He has been actively identified with the promotion of many enterprises that have admirably conserved the industrial

and civic development and upbuilding of the county, and no citizen commands a fuller measure of popular confidence and esteem in the community. He has served as mayor of Mason City and has at all times given his influence and co-operation in the promotion of measures projected for the general welfare of his home city and county.

Mr. Brett is a native of Boone county, Illinois, where he was born on the 13th of October, 1849, and he is a son of William and Ellen (Brett) Brett, both of whom were born and reared in England, where their marriage was solemnized.

The parents came to the United States in 1843 and numbered themselves among the pioneer settlers of Boone county, Illinois, where the father secured a tract of government land and instituted the development of a farm,—the old homestead on which George W. Brett was born. In 1866 William Brett came with his family to Iowa and settled at Waverly, Bremer county, in which locality he made investments in land, which with the passing years greatly increased in value. He bought and sold much land in various sections of the state and he is today one of the most extensive land holders in northern Iowa. In the '70s he purchased large tracts of land in Cerro Gordo county, and under the direction of his son, George W., who assumed the supervision of the estate in 1878, these properties have been splendidly improved and now constitute the largest landed estate in the county, the father and son each being large land owners in the county. Of the three children the subject of this review and one brother, Albert, are the only children of William and Ellen Brett now living, the one daughter having died in 1904.

William Brett established his residence in Mason City about the year 1888, and here he continued to pass the summers for a number of years, sojourning for the winter seasons in California. In 1904 he established his permanent home in Los Angeles, that state, where he is the owner of a considerable amount of valuable property. Though now (1910) eighty-eight years of age, he is well preserved in both his mental and physical powers, as is also his cherished and devoted wife, who has attained to the age of eighty-four years. William Brett has been a man of great business capacity and in his extensive operations his course has ever been guided and governed by the highest principles of integrity and honor, so that he has not been denied the uniform confidence and regard of those with whom he has come in contract in the various relations of life. He is the owner of real estate in Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and North and South Dakota, as well

as in Iowa and California, and he has long been recognized as a substantial capitalist. His political allegiance has been given to the Republican party from the time of its organization to the present and both he and his wife have long been zealous members of the Congregational church.

George W. Brett passed his boyhood days on the old home-stead farm which was the place of his nativity, and after avail-ing himself of the advantages of the district schools of Boone county, Illinois, he continued his studies in the high school at Belvidere, that state. He accompanied his parents on their re-moval to Bremer county, Iowa, in 1866, and here he completed a preparatory course under private instruction, with the intention of entering college. However, he finally decided that it would be more expedient to discontinue higher academic studies, and un-der these conditions he went to the city of Chicago, where he com-pleted a course in the Bryant & Stratton Business College, thus admirably fitting himself for the active duties and responsibilities of his exceptionally successful business career. After his return to Iowa he became associated with Lewis Case in the opening of a carefully prepared set of abstract books of Bremer county, and he there continued in the abstract business for the ensuing four years, at the expiration of which, in 1878, he disposed of his interest in the enterprise and came to Mason City, where he assumed the active supervision of his father's real estate and general business interests, which he has continued to manage during the long inter-vening years. He has thus been most prominently identified with the development of the agricultural resources of this section, and has purchased and sold large amounts of land. When he assumed control of the estate it comprised about four thousand acres, and at the present time the joint holdings of himself and his father in northern Iowa aggregate thousands of acres, the greater part of the property being well improved and under effective cultivation. As has already been noted the Brett landed estate is the largest in Cerro Gordo county, and its development and great appreciation in value have been admirably conserved under the able adminis-tration of him whose name initiates this article.

Mr. Brett was one of the organizers of the Iowa State Bank of Mason City and was its first president. He has since disposed of his interests in this institution. His father, William Brett, is one of the principal stockholders of the First National Bank. George W. Brett has given tangible aid also in the fostering and upbuilding of a number of manufacturing and business enter-prises in Mason City, and his loyalty and public spirit have been

of the most insistent and beneficent order. In politics he is found arrayed under the banner of the Republican party, and he served from 1902 to 1905, inclusive, as mayor of Mason City, giving a most effective administration and one that did much to advance the best interests of the city. He had previously served two terms as a member of the city council. He is affiliated with the local organizations of the Knights of Pythias and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and Mrs. Brett holds membership in the Pythian Sisters and in the Christian Science church. She is a prominent and popular factor in the social activities of the community and presides most graciously over the attractive home, which is a center of generous hospitality.

In the year 1872, at Brandon, Wisconsin, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Brett to Miss Alice A. Sheldon, who was born and reared in Syracuse, New York, and who is a daughter of the late Ezra Sheldon, who died in early life on the old homestead, leaving a good wife and four children to mourn his loss. Mr. and Mrs. Brett have two children,—Bert H., who is associated with his father in the latter's varied business operations, and Harriet M., who is the wife of Frank L. Michael, of Mason City.

WILLIAM C. STANBERY, M. D.

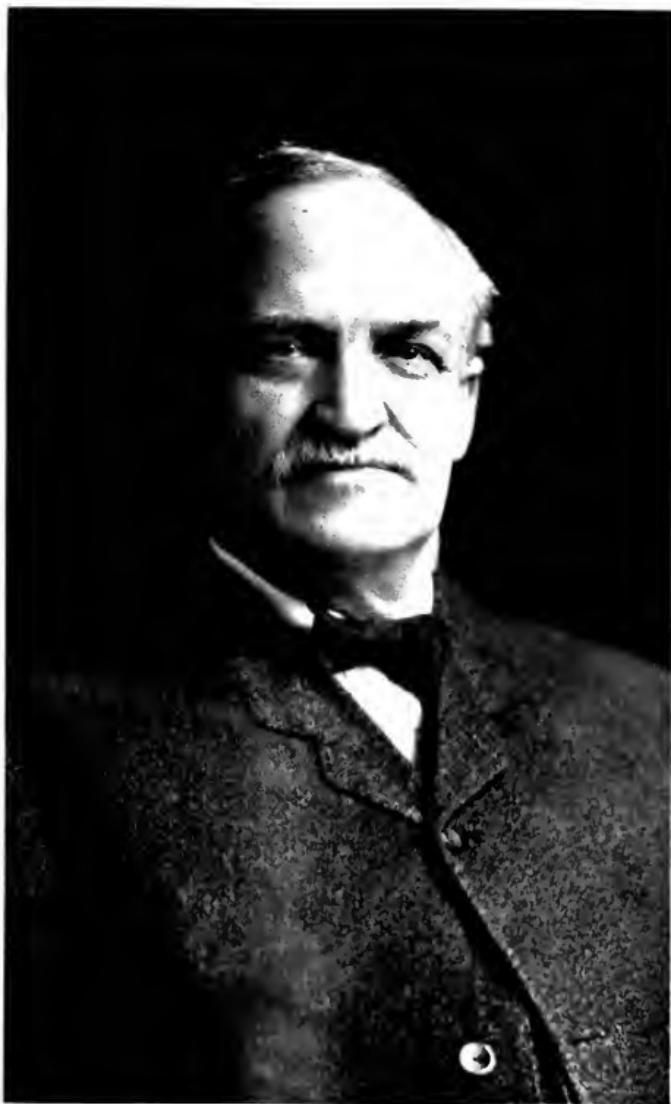
Numbered among those who have lent dignity and honor to the medical profession in the state of Iowa, where he initiated his humane endeavors in the pioneer days, was Dr. William C. Stanbery, who was long numbered among the representative physicians and surgeons, as well as the active and influential citizens of Cerro Gordo county, where he continued to reside until his death, which occurred at Mason City on the 21st of April, 1874. His memory is revered by all those who came within the sphere of his kindly influence and it is most consonant that in this publication be incorporated at least a brief tribute to his memory.

Dr. Stanbery was born at Waynesburg, Green county, June 29, 1824, where he was reared to manhood and where his early educational advantages were those afforded in the common schools of the period. In preparation for the work of his chosen profession, he finally entered the Cincinnati Medical College in the city of Cincinnati, Ohio, in which institution he was graduated as a member of the class of 1842 and from which he received his well-earned degree of Doctor of Medicine. For several years thereafter he was engaged in the practice of his profession in Mercer

county, Ohio, and in January, 1846, was solemnized his marriage to Miss Elizabeth Stettler, of St. Marys, Ohio. Soon afterward they moved to La Porte, Indiana, where he continued in the work of his profession until 1851, when he removed to Vinton, Benton county, Iowa, where he established himself in practice. To fortify himself more fully for his chosen vocation, he completed an effective post-graduate course in the Keokuk Medieal College, from which he received the supplemental degree of Doctor of Medicine in the autumn of 1857. In May, 1858, he located at Clear Lake, Cerro Gordo county, which represented his place of residence and professional headquarters until 1860. In the meanwhile Dr. Stanbery had taken up the study of law and commenced to practice, having been admitted to the bar in 1859, by Judge Samuel Murdock, who was then presiding on the bench of the circuit court for Cerro Gordo county. In 1860 Dr. Stanbery formed a law partnership with Irving W. Card, who later became postmaster of Mason City. Here they were associated in practice until 1861, when, shortly after the outbreak of the Civil war, Dr. Stanbery gave distinctive evidence of his intrinsic loyalty and patriotism by tendering his services in defense of the Union. He enlisted in Company B, Thirty-second Iowa Volunteer Infantry, in which he was commissioned first lieutenant. After his arrival with his command in Tennessee he was appointed to the office of provost marshal. In this capacity he afterward did service at New Madrid, Missouri, and there he received his honorable discharge in 1863, on account of physical disability. After his return to Iowa he resumed the practice of law in Mason City, where he continued to reside until his death.

In politics Dr. Stanbery gave staunch allegiance to the Democratic party, of whose principles and policies he was an effective advocate. He was a delegate to the national convention in the city of Baltimore that nominated Stephen A. Douglas as the Democratic candidate for the presidency. Shortly before his death he was the candidate of his party for the office of judge of the circuit court of the twelfth judicial district and he had the distinction of serving as the first mayor of Mason City. Under the administration of President Andrew Johnson he was appointed collector of internal revenues for the district that at that time comprised about half of the state of Iowa. In 1860 he was a candidate for the lower house of the Iowa legislature as representative of the district now comprised in the Tenth congressional district.

He was a man of fine intellectual attainments and great prae-



John S. Stankey

tical ability and he wielded potent influence in connection with civic, professional and public affairs in the early days of the history of Iowa, upon the roster of whose honored pioneers his name merits an enduring place. His religious faith was that of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which his devoted wife was likewise a member. The death of the latter occurred at her home in Mason City on the 7th of March, 1910. She was one of the most venerable pioneer women of Cerro Gordo county at the time of her demise and was held in affectionate regard by all who had come within the sphere of her gentle influence. Dr. Stanbery was especially appreciated and valued in the Masonic fraternity in which he attained the maximum, thirty-third degree, of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite. He was the founder of Benevolence Lodge, No. 145, Free and Accepted Masons of Mason City and was its first master. He also organized Forest City and Belmond Lodges and was similarly identified with several other Masonic lodges in this section of the state.

In conclusion of this brief memoir is entered the following record concerning the children of Dr. and Mrs. Stanbery: John S., who is individually mentioned on other pages of this work; Sarah J., who became the wife of James Elder of Mason City, and died in 1903; Margaret is the wife of Horton E. Francisco of Mason City; Thomas P., is engaged in the coal business in this city; Recompense is one of the prominent and influential citizens of Mason City, where he founded both of the principal early newspapers and where he is owner of a large amount of valuable realty; William C. D. A., is a prominent merchant of Clarion, this state; Harry E., is identified with the newspaper business in Mason City and has attained prominence as an author and correspondent; Jessie M., is the wife of George N. Elder of Mason City; Flora May is the wife of William E. Farman of Monrovia, California; Eliza Belle is the wife of Frank A. Van Vleck of Minot, North Dakota; Henry S. is engaged in the printing business in Mason City; Francis L., died at Clear Lake, Iowa, in 1859.

JOHN S. STANBERY.

The senior member of the well known law firm of Stanbery & Stanbery, in which his associate is his son Ralph S., the subject of this review holds a place of prominence as one of the leading members of the bar of Iowa and is also an influential factor in civic and business affairs. The major portion of his life has been passed at Mason City and here he commands

unqualified confidence and esteem as a citizen of sterling worth and as a leading member of the bar of Cerro Gordo county. On other pages of this work is given a memoir concerning his distinguished and honorable father, Dr. William C. Stanbery. As ready reference may be made to the article in question it is unnecessary to repeat the data in the present sketch.

John S. Stanbery was born in Mercer county, Ohio, on September 28, 1846, and he was about five years of age at the time of the family removal to Iowa. The home was maintained at Vinton, this state, until 1858, when the parents removed to Clear Lake, Cerro Gordo county, where they resided until 1860, when permanent location was made in Mason City where the subject of this review has continuously maintained his home since he was about twelve years of age. He was afforded the advantages of the public schools and he began his independent career by engaging in teaching in the district school in Cerro Gordo and Hancock counties. In the meanwhile he began reading law under effective preceptorship and finally he entered the law department of the University of Iowa, in which he completed the prescribed course and in which he was graduated as a member of the class of 1870, with the degree of Bachelor of Laws. He was simultaneously admitted to the bar of the state and he began the practice of his profession in Mason City, where he was associated with D. T. Gibson until 1873, when the partnership was dissolved. Mr. Gibson is now living retired at Waverly, this state. In 1874 Mr. Stanbery entered into partnership alliance with Hon. Joseph J. Clark now district judge, and they continued to be coadjutors for thirty years, within which they built up and controlled a large and representative professional business. After the dissolution of this firm Mr. Stanbery was a member of the firm of Stanbery, Hill & Eulette for a period of two years, at the expiration of which, in 1906, he admitted his son Ralph, to partnership under the present firm name of Stanbery & Stanbery. He has been attorney and counsel for various important corporations and representative business men of Cerro Gordo county and is an able trial lawyer who has appeared in connection with a large amount of important litigation in the various courts.

In politics Mr. Stanbery has ever accorded staunch allegiance to the Republican party and he has rendered yeoman service in behalf of its cause as one of the leaders of its local ranks. He served six years in the office of justice of the peace and for an equal period was a valued member of the board of education of Mason City. In 1904 he was elected to represent his county in

the lower house of the state legislature, where he served through two sessions and proved a valuable conservator of the interests of his constituency and of those of the state at large. In the Masonic fraternity he has attained chivalric degrees and his maximum affiliation is with the Antioch Commandery, No. 43, Knights Templars. He also holds membership in the Knights of Pythias and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, though he does not now maintain any active affiliation with the same. For the past thirty years he has been an officer in the Methodist Episcopal church of his home city and he is one of its most influential and valued members. His personal popularity has its basis in his sterling integrity of character and his generous and kindly attitude in his association with his fellow men.

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On the 29th of June, 1873, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Stanbery to Miss Laura J. Ives, who was born at Mount Holly, Rutland county, Vermont, and who died on the 21st of August, 1875, leaving no children. In October, 1876, Mr. Stanbery wedded Miss Martha A. Waldo, who was born in Rock county, Wisconsin, and who was graduated in Milton Academy, Wisconsin. She was summoned to the life eternal on the 11th of March, 1906, and is survived by two children,—Anna W., who remains with her father a graduate of Cornell and Latin teacher in the high school for the past five years, and Ralph S., who is his father's associate in the practice of law.

Ralph S. Stanbery was born in Mason City on the 15th of January, 1881, and he completed the curriculum of the public school of this city, in whose high school he was graduated as a member of the class of 1898. Thereafter he continued his studies in Cornell College at Mt. Vernon, Iowa, after leaving which he entered the literary department of the University of Minnesota, from which he received the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1903 and in the law department of which he was graduated as a member of the class of 1905 with the degree of Bachelor of Laws. For one year after his graduation he was employed in the farm-loan department of the Northern Trust Company of Chicago and he then returned to Mason City, where he has since been associated with his father in the practice of his profession, in which he is well upholding the prestige of the honored name which he bears.

Mr. Ralph S. Stanbery is staunchly arrayed under the banner of the Republican party and as a citizen he is essentially progressive and public spirited. He is now serving as secretary of the Mason City Commercial Club, to which position he was elected in January, 1910. He and his wife are members of the Methodist

Episcopal church and he is affiliated with the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias, in the Sigma Nu college fraternity and the Phi Delta Phi legal fraternity. He married Jessie Klemme on June 8, 1909. She was born at Klemme, Hancock county, Iowa, a daughter of Harmon J., and Effie (Hoyt) Klemme, the father a native of Indiana and the mother of Iowa. Mr. Klemme homesteaded land in Hancock county, Iowa and followed farming for a time, later engaging in the lumber and grain business and now owning large tracts of land. He is a wealthy man and he makes his home at Belmond.

FREDERICK A. KIRSCHMAN.

When it is stated that the subject of this review is at the present time (1910) incumbent of the office of mayor of Mason City, it will at once be understood that he maintains a strong hold upon public confidence and esteem in his thriving and attractive home city. Here he is engaged in the practice of law and he holds precedence as one of the most able and successful members of the bar of Cerro Gordo county. In later years he has also devoted special attention to the real estate business, in which his operations are now of important order and wide scope.

Mr. Kirschman finds a due measure of satisfaction in reverting to the fine old Hawkeye state as the place of his nativity and he is a member of a family whose name has long been identified with the annals of this commonwealth. He was born on his father's farm near New Hampton, Chickasaw county, Iowa, on the 21st of September, 1863, and is a son of Andrew and Christina (Markle) Kirschman, both of whom were born in Germany, whence they came to America when young folk. Their marriage was solemnized in the state of New York. The father had served an apprenticeship to the shoemaker's trade in his native land, but after coming to America he identified himself with the great basic industry of agriculture, through his association with which he achieved independence and definite prosperity. He first came to Iowa in 1856, and his marriage was celebrated some time later, so that his wife did not arrive in this state until 1858. He became one of the representative farmers of Chickasaw county, where he developed a valuable farm and where he continued to reside until his death, which occurred in 1880. His widow, who is now seventy-four years of age (1910), now maintains her home in the village of New Hampton and is one of the highly esteemed pioneer women

of that section of the state. She is a devout member of the German Evangelical church, as was also her husband, and the latter was a Democrat in his political proclivities. Of the six children all are living except one, and the subject of this review was the oldest in order of birth.

Frederick A. Kirschman was reared to the sturdy discipline of the old homestead farm, which was the place of his birth, and after completing the curriculum of the common schools he continued his studies in the Upper Iowa University at Fayette. After leaving this institution he was a student for some time in the Valder Business College at Decorah, this state, and in preparing himself for the work of his chosen profession he attended for two years the law department of the celebrated University of Wisconsin, at Madison, in which he was graduated as a member of the class of 1891 and from which he received his well earned degree of Bachelor of Laws. There he was admitted to practice in the United States circuit and district courts in June, 1891, at the time of his graduation. He then returned to Iowa and located in Mason City, where he has since maintained his home. Here he was admitted to practice before the Iowa supreme court and later in the United States circuit and district courts in this state. He gave virtually his undivided attention to the work of his profession for a period of fifteen years, within which he gained marked success and high reputation as a versatile trial lawyer and admirably fortified counselor. He served as city attorney for Mason City from 1901 to 1905, and since his retirement from this office he has devoted himself more especially to his real estate business, though he still gives more or less attention to the work of his profession. He is one of the interested principals in the F. A. Kirschman Land Company, in which his associates are Frank E. Nelson and Thomas C. Pierce. This company, of which he is president, has attained a position of distinctive priority in the handling of improved and unimproved property in Mason City as well as farming lands in Cerro Gordo county. Mr. Kirschman has been the architect of his own fortunes and thus his distinctive success is the more gratifying to contemplate.

His genial personality and sterling character have gained to him the high regard of the community in which he has elected to make his home, and as a citizen he has always shown the highest order of public spirit and progressive loyalty. In politics he was formerly aligned with the Democratic party but he now gives his allegiance to the Republican party. In the spring of 1909 Mr. Kirschman was elected mayor of Mason City, on the People's

ticket, and he is giving a most able and satisfactory administration of municipal government. He is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Modern Woodmen of America, the Modern Brotherhood of America and the Tribe of Ben Hur.

On the 21st of September, 1892, Mr. Kirschman was united in marriage to Miss Nellie Meader, who was born and reared in Winnesiek county, where her paternal grandfather took up his residence prior to 1850, thus founding one of the old and influential families of that section of the state. Mr. and Mrs. Kirschman became the parents of five children, all of whom are living except one son who died in infancy. All the children were born in Mason City and here the four surviving children are attending school,—Cecil F., Orton A., Esther L. and Roy M.

JAMES B. DAKIN, M. D.

Engaged in the active practice of his exacting profession in Cerro Gordo county for more than a quarter of a century, Dr. James B. Dakin gained prestige as one of the leading physicians and surgeons of this section of the state, and his success was tantamount to his fine ability. He continued in the harness until the time of his death, which occurred at his home in Mason City on the 1st of March, 1896, and both by reason of his high standing in his profession and as a citizen of utmost progressiveness and public spirit he is well entitled to a tribute of honor in this publication. He labored with all of zeal and devotion in the alleviation of human suffering and he also found time to manifest especial civic loyalty, having been called upon to serve in various offices of public trust, including that of mayor of his home city. He commanded the utmost confidence and esteem and proved himself worthy in all the relations of life.

Dr. James Briggs Dakin was one of the pioneer physicians of Cerro Gordo county, where he took up his abode in 1869 and where he continued to live and labor to goodly ends until the close of his long and useful life. He was born in Clinton county, Ohio, on the 5th of January, 1836, and was a son of Perry and Phoebe (McMannis) Dakin, whose marriage was solemnized in the year 1820. The father was a native of Dutchess county, New York, and the mother of Kentucky, and both families were founded in Ohio in the pioneer epoch of the history of that fine old commonwealth. Perry Dakin was reared to maturity in his native state, whence he removed to Ohio when a young man, and he numbered

himself among the early settlers of Clinton county, where he re-claimed a productive farm from the forest wilds and where he died, secure in the high regard of all who knew him. Mrs. Dakin died in Princeton, Illinois, at the age of ninety-seven years. They became the parents of five sons and five daughters.

Like many another sterling citizen who has attained distinctive success as one of the world's noble army of workers, Dr. Dakin was reared to the sturdy discipline of the farm, and he early began to assist in the various departments of its work, so that he grew vigorous in mind and body and gained a due appreciation of the value and dignity of honest toil and endeavor. After availing himself of the pioneer schools he was enabled to continue higher studies in a well conducted academic institution in his native state. In 1855 he went to La Porte, Indiana, where he began reading medicine in the office and under the preceptorship of his elder brother, Dr. George M. Dakin. In 1860-61 he attended a course of lectures in the Electie Medical College in the city of Cincinnati, Ohio, but he soon subordinated all other interests to tender his services in defense of the Union, whose integrity was in jeopardy through armed rebellion on the part of the southern states. He enlisted as a private in the Seventy-second Illinois Volunteer Infantry, which gained reputation as the "Board of Trade Regiment," owing to the fact that a large percentage of its members had been connected with the Board of Trade in Chicago. Dr. Dakin was with his regiment at the seige of Vicksburg and participated in other engagements. He was finally assigned to detached duty in the hospital at Benton Barracks, in the city of St. Louis, where he remained until the expiration of his term of enlistment, when he received his honorable discharge. After the close of the war he again took up his medical studies, and during the spring of 1866 was again a student in the Cincinnati college previously mentioned. From this institution he duly received his degree of Doctor of Medicine, and he initiated the active work of his profession at La Porte, Indiana, where he remained until 1868, when he went to Bloomington, Illinois, and in 1869, he came to Iowa and established himself in practice at Mason City, where he passed the residue of his life and where he laid aside his humane work only a short time prior to his demise. His sympathy passed beyond sentiment to be an actuating motive for human helpfulness, and his gracious personality as well as his able ministrations in his profession made him one of the most popular citizens of the county in which he so long lived and labored. He was a member of various professional organizations of representative order and he ever continued

an enthusiastic student of medicine and surgery, so that he was able to avail himself of the best methods and facilities represented therein.

In politics Dr. Dakin was found aligned as a stalwart in the camp of the Republican party, and he ever took a lively and intelligent interest in the questions and issues of the hour. Whatever tended to advance the general welfare of his home city and county was assured of his zealous support, and his eligibility and civic loyalty marked him for public office. Thus he served, with all of acceptability, in the office of mayor of Mason City and also as a member of the board of county supervisors. He was a prominent figure in various fraternal organizations and had the distinction of being the first man in Mason City to attain the thirty-second degree in the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of the Masonic fraternity. He was the founder of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias and was called to various official chairs in this and other organizations with which he was identified. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and ever showed a deep interest in his old comrades of the Civil war. His religious faith was indicated by his membership in the Disciple church.

In the year 1867 was solemnized the marriage of Dr. Dakin to Miss Julia May Church, a daughter of the late Rev. Jesse Church who was an elder in the Christian church and who passed the closing years of his life and died in Mason City while on a visit. Mrs. Dakin's brother, Judge Jarvis S. Church, was a pioneer of Mason City and one of the prominent members of the bar of Cerro Gordo county, where he presided for a number of years on the bench of the county court. Mrs. Dakin received excellent educational advantages and was graduated in Antioch College, at Yellow Springs, Ohio, as a member of the class of 1863. She is a woman of gracious presence and fine intellectual attainments, and she was twice elected to the responsible office of superintendent of public schools for Cerro Gordo county, where she gave a most careful and progressive administration during her two terms. She still maintains her home in Mason City, where she is held in affectionate regard by all who know her and where she has long been a popular figure in church and social circles. Dr. and Mrs. Dakin became the parents of six children, of whom only two are living—Dr. Channing, E., of whom specific mention is made on other pages of this volume, and Amy Dorothy, who is the wife of Dr. Hardy F. Pool, of Mason City.



W.C. Brice

WILLIAM E. BRICE.

There can be naught of inconsistency in referring to Mr. Brice as one of the most progressive and liberal business men of Cerro Gordo county and he has been most prominently identified with the promotion of public utilities that have greatly tended to conserve the advancement of the state of Iowa, where his interests are now of broad scope and importance. He is one of the popular and influential citizens of Mason City and is especially entitled to consideration in this publication.

William E. Brice was born at Rochelle, Ogle county, Illinois, on the 26th of July, 1861. His father, James Brice, was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, where he was reared to maturity and whence he removed to Illinois when a young man. He established himself in the mercantile business at Rochelle, that state, where he continued to reside until 1865, when he removed with his family to Iowa and located at Tama. There he built up a prosperous mercantile business, which he continued until his death, in 1888, at the age of forty-nine years. His wife, whose maiden name was Sarah Hill, was born at Waverly, Tioga county, New York, and she likewise passed the closing years of her life at Tama, Iowa, where she died when about forty-nine years of age.

William E. Brice was about four years of age at the time of the family removal to Iowa and he is indebted to the public schools of Tama for his early educational discipline, which was supplemented by a course in Cornell College, at Mount Vernon, Iowa. When eighteen years of age he became associated with his father's mercantile business, which he individually conducted after the death of his father until 1896, when he disposed of the stock and business. He became one of the projectors and stockholders of the Tama & Toledo Electric Railway and Light Company and he is still vice president of the company operating the same. The line of this road extends between Toledo and Tama and is about two and one-half miles in length. It is in successful operation and provides facilities and accommodations that are of great value. After disposing of his mercantile establishment in Tama in 1896 Mr. Brice came to Mason City and in the same year he secured franchises for and projected the construction of the electric interurban line between Mason City and Clear Lake and the street car line in Mason City, a distance of eighteen and a half miles. The line was completed on the 3rd of July, 1897, and is one of the best interurban roads in the state. Mr. Brice is virtually the entire owner of the line. In August, 1898, he organized the Iowa & Minnesota

Northwestern Railway Company and he assumed the practical management of making its survey, securing the right of way and constructing its line from Belle Plaine, Iowa, to Fox Lake, Minnesota, a distance of one hundred and ninety-nine miles. In 1899 he sold the line to the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Company, though he continued as president of the original company until the road was completed and became a part of the great Chicago & Northwestern system. He and his associates retain twenty-two townsites along the line of this road and these properties they have effectively developed under the corporate title of the Iowa & Minnesota Town Site Company. Of this corporation Mr. Brice is president. He also platted and has developed what is known as the street railway addition to Mason City, the same comprising a tract of one hundred and fifty acres and having been platted into five hundred and sixty lots. He and his associates have sold a majority of these attractive lots. Mr. Brice is also a director and the principal stockholder in the Iowa State Bank of Mason City and is a stockholder in twelve other banking institutions. In 1900 he effected the purchase of the gas, electric light and heating plant in Mason City and in 1904 this was entirely rebuilt, being brought up to the best modern standard and thus furnishing most effectively gas and electric service for light, power and heat, the plant being adequate to meet the demands placed upon it for many years to come. The power plant of the electric railway owned by Mr. Brice was enlarged and modernized in 1910 and its machinery, rolling stock and all incidental equipments are of the best type. In view of the brief statements already incorporated it may be well understood that Mr. Brice is a valuable man to have in any community and his enterprising and progressive activities have not lacked for popular appreciation, giving his prestige as one of the leading business men of this section of the state. He is a citizen well worthy of the confidence and esteem in which he is held. Though he has never had any desire to enter the arena of practical politics he accords a staunch allegiance to the Republican party and he is affiliated with the Mason City Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

On the 22nd of June, 1884, Mr. Brice was united in marriage to Miss Minnie H. Tallon, who was born and reared at Montrose, Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania, and she is a popular factor in connection with the leading social activities of Mason City, being a woman of much charm and most gracious personality.

THOMAS G. EMSLEY.

Thomas G. Emsley, deceased, was a resident of Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, from 1858 until his death, June 7, 1886, and was prominently identified with its interests. A review of his life and that of his helpmate is appropriately presented in this work.

Thomas G. Emsley was born in Carroll county, Ohio, December 23, 1843, son of W. W. and Beatrice II. (Donaldson) Emsley, the former a native of Yorkshire, England, the latter of Vermont and of Scotch descent. The death of his father in 1849 left Thomas G. an orphan at the age of six years, and from his early boyhood he made his own way in the world. When he was fifteen he came to Iowa. Here at the outbreak of the Civil war his sympathies were aroused in favor of the north, and in 1864, on reaching his majority, he showed his loyalty to his country by offering his service to help defend it. He enlisted in Company I, Second Iowa Cavalry, the fortunes of which he shared until the war was over and he was honorably discharged.

Returning to Mason City, Iowa, in 1865, Mr. Emsley was that year elected treasurer of Cerro Gordo county, and on December 19th of the same year he was united in marriage with Miss Mary Church, daughter of Rev. Jesse E. Church. She was born and lived at Spring, Pennsylvania, until she came to Mason City, Iowa, in the summer of 1864 to spend a year as a visitor with her brother, J. S. Church, who then resided here. While on this visit she began to work in the postoffice for her brother. The attractions of a new country for a boy or girl who were willing to take advantage of the opportunity for self reliance appealed so strongly to her independent nature that she gained her father's consent to remain longer than she had at first expected, and from working in the office she turned her attention to teaching, and taught a few terms at twenty-five dollars a month. Living with her brother, her expenses were comparatively nothing, and she saved her earnings and made investment. Her first venture in speculation was buying tax title land, and in this way a hundred and sixty acres of wild prairie land came into her possession. At the time of their marriage the young couple had this land and four hundred dollars in money. They went to housekeeping in a two-room rented house, and every year thereafter found their assets somewhat increased. Mr. Emsley held the office of treasurer for four years. This gave him familiarity with all the land in Cerro Gordo county, also in adjoining counties, and for ten years he bought and sold land to advantage, until, for this country, they found themselves in reason-

ably good circumstances. In connection with his real estate, in 1873 Mr. Emsley, seeing an opening for a banking business at Mason City, established the City Bank. Both he and his enterprising wife worked hard to make this a success, he as president, she as cashier. The City National Bank is the outcome of their efforts. After the death of Mr. Emsley, which occurred in 1886, Mrs. Emsley showed her superior ability by the manner in which she managed the business and estate. She succeeded him as president of the bank, and continued as such until its re-organization and the formation of the City National Bank. In all that pertains to the welfare of Mason City, both educational and otherwise, she has contributed according to her means. For many years she gave her best efforts toward the establishment of a free public library. Her creed is that of the Unitarian church, and she is an outspoken equal suffragist.

On March 9, 1905, Mrs. Emsley became the wife of Charles A. Adams, ex-county recorder and court reporter of Cerro Gordo county, having served in the last named capacity for over thirty years. Mr. Adams was born at Worcester, Massachusetts, in 1844, and when about nine years old came west with his parents. They stopped for a time in Illinois, and from there came to Iowa and settled at Mason City. Here Mr. Adams grew to manhood. During the Civil war he was a member of Company B, Thirty-second Infantry, and most of his service was as a clerk at headquarters. He is a member of Huntly Post, G. A. R., and is also identified with the Masons and the Elks. Mrs. Adams has membership in the O. E. S. at Mason City, and also in Maria Mitchell Club, the oldest woman's club in the town.

By her first marriage Mrs. Adams has two daughters, Mrs. Mabel Emsley Gale and Mrs. Lillie Emsley Markley.

JOHN H. ME EWEN.

The present efficient and popular city clerk of Mason City is a member of one of the well known and highly honored pioneer families of Iowa, which has represented his home from his infancy to the present time, and he is not only one of the valued executive officers of the municipal government of Mason City but is also known as an essentially loyal and progressive citizen and as a man well worthy of the unqualified esteem in which he is held in the community.

Mr. McEwen was born in Ulster county, New York, on the 6th of October, 1855, and is a son of William L. and Harriet

(Rhinehart) McEwen, both of whom were likewise natives of the old Empire state of the Union, where the respective families were early founded. In 1856 William L. McEwen came with his family to Iowa and east in his lot with the pioneers of Floyd county, where he purchased a tract of government land and turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. He was a man of excellent educational attainments and during the winter months he found appreciative requisition for his services as a teacher in the pioneer schools. About 1885 he sold his farm and removed to Rockwell, Cerro Gordo county, where he purchased the plant and business of the *Rockwell Phonograph*, a weekly paper that had been founded several years previously. He made this one of the best country papers in this section of the state and continued as its editor and publisher until his death, in 1904, at the venerable age of seventy-four years. He was a staunch Republican in his political adherencey and he made his newspaper an effective exponent of the party cause in Cerro Gordo county. While a resident of Floyd county Mr. McEwen served as a member of the county board of supervisors and also held other township offices. He was a man of ability and sterling character, and his personal popularity was determined by the effective metewand of public respect and approbation. His cherished and devoted wife was summoned to the life eternal in November, 1909, at the age of seventy-six years, and both were zealous members of the Congregational church. Of the children the subject of this review is the eldest; Charles E. is identified with the United States mail service in Mason City; Mary Ida died in infancy; Elmer E. continues to be associated with the publication of the *Rockwell Phonograph*; and Florence became the wife of William A. Grummon, of Rockwell, Iowa, and her death occurred in October, 1903.

As already intimated, John H. McEwen was an infant at the time of the family removal to Iowa, in the year succeeding that of his birth, and his earliest recollections touch the conditions and influences of the home farm in Floyd county, where he gained his rudimentary education in the district schools. His business career was initiated by his assumption of a clerical position in a general store in his home village, and later he was engaged in the hotel business at Rockwell for several years. More than a score of years ago, in 1889, Mr. McEwen took up his abode in Mason City, where he was associated with William E. Ensign in the clothing business for the ensuing six years, at the expiration of which he was elected to the office of county recorder, of which he continued incumbent for three terms of two years each, having first been elected in 1895

and having retired from the position in 1901. His administration was careful and effective and gained unqualified public approval. After his retirement he was employed in the clothing establishment of Mr. Ensign for about one year, at the expiration of which, in April, 1902, he was elected city clerk, of which responsible office he has since remained in tenure by successive re-elections.

Mr. McEwen has never lacked in civic loyalty or in fealty to the cause of the Republican party, in whose local ranks he has been an active worker. He is affiliated with the Mason City organizations of the Knights of Pythias, the Modern Brotherhood of America and the Knights of the Maccabees, and both he and his wife are members of the Congregational church in their home city.

Mr. McEwen has been twice married. On the 24th of February, 1878, he wedded Miss Mary E. Rugg, who was born in Winnebago county, Illinois, whence her parents removed to Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, when she was a child. She died on the 22d of November, 1898, and is survived by one son—William R., who is now an employee of the J. G. Cherry Company, engaged in the creamery supply business in the city of Cedar Rapids, this state, and who had previously been employed for two years in the sales department of the National Creamery Supply Company of Chicago. On the 18th of June, 1902, Mr. McEwen married Miss Ida M. Hartwell, of Mason City, who was born at Ingham, Franklin county, Iowa, and who is a daughter of William Hartwell, an honored citizen and business man of Mason City. No children have been born of the second union.

FRED A. ONTJES.

The senior member of the well known law firm of Ontjes & Law, engaged in the practice of law in Mason City, the subject of this brief sketch, is known as one of the able and representative younger members of the bar of this section of the state and he has been associated in practice with Harvey E. Law since the autumn of 1907, under the title already designated. A sketch of the career of his coadjutor appears on other pages of this volume.

Like his partner Mr. Ontjes is a native son of the state of Iowa. He was born in Butler county, on the 12th of October, 1884, and is a son of Andrew and Caroline (Myer) Ontjes, who took up their residence in this state in the pioneer days. Andrew Ontjes made the overland trip from Illinois to Iowa in 1876, driving with a team and wagon to Dubuque and thence onward to

Butler county, where he secured a tract of land and developed a valuable farm. He became one of the substantial capitalists and thoroughly representative and influential citizens of that county and for a number of years he was president of the bank at Aplington, Butler county, where he is now living virtually retired. He has been an active factor in connection with public affairs in this county but the honors and emoluments have had no allurement for him and he has invariably refused to become a candidate for office. He is a staunch Republican in politics, and both he and his wife hold membership in the Baptist church.

Of their seven children five sons and one daughter are living, one daughter, Jennie, having died at the age of twenty-five years. Three of the sons are prominently identified with the banking business, William is vice president of the State Exchange Bank at Sioux Falls, South Dakota; O. A. is cashier of the Farmer's Savings Bank at Holland, Iowa; and John is an executive of the bank at Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The other son, Andrew, is engaged in the grain business at Aplington, Iowa. The daughter, Lena, is now Mrs. De Buhr.

Fred A. Ontjes, the immediate subject of this sketch, passed his boyhood youth in Butler county, this state, where he early began to assist in the work of the home farm and after duly avail- ing himself of the advantages of the public schools he was matri- culated in the law department of the University of Iowa, at Iowa City, in which institution he was graduated as a member of the class of 1907 and from which he received the degree of Bachelor of Laws. Prior to his entrance in the University he had taken a preparatory course in Ellsworth College, at Iowa Falls, and had likewise pursued academic studies in the city of Des Moines. After his graduation Mr. Ontjes made a trip through the west for rest and recreation and he then took up his residence in Mason City, where he has been engaged in the practice of his profession since the fall of 1907, and his coadjutor, Mr. Law, was a fellow student in the law department of the state university. Mr. Ontjes has proved an able trial lawyer and conservative counselor and his firm has built up a substantial business in the work of the profession. In politics he is a staunch adherent of the Republican party and his religious views are in harmony with the tenets of the Baptist church, of which his parents are members. He is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, the Knights of Pythias and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Mr. Ontjes is a bachelor.

HARVEY E. LAW.

One of the representative younger members of the bar of Cerro Gordo county, Harvey Edward Law, has chosen a profession singularly in consonance with the name that he bears, and he is proving himself admirably equipped for the vocation to which he is giving himself with all of zeal and loyalty, realizing that in the law the rewards come only to those who are willing to work and to subordinate other interests to its demands.

Mr. Law is a native of the Hawkeye state and finds himself bound to the same by claims of affection and loyalty. He was born in Black Hawk township, Black Hawk county, Iowa, on the old homestead farm, about four miles west of the village of Hudson, and the date of his nativity was November 24, 1884. He is a son of William M. and Eliza Jessie Law, the former of whom was born in the province of Ontario, Canada, and the latter in the city of Chicago, where she was reared and educated and where her marriage was solemnized. Soon after their life destinies had been thus united, William M. Law and his wife came to Iowa and took up their residence on the homestead farm which he had previously secured, in 1875. They continued to reside on this homestead, the birthplace of the subject of this sketch, until 1887, when they removed to the village of Hudson, and in 1894 they removed to the city of Waterloo, this state, where the father still resides and where the devoted wife and mother died on the 28th of May, 1907, at the age of fifty years. She was a woman of most gentle and gracious character and held the affectionate regard of all who came within the sphere of her influence. She was a devout member of the Presbyterian church, in which her husband also holds membership. Her parents immigrated from Yorkshire, England, and became pioneers of the city of Chicago, where they took up their residence when the great western metropolis was a place of minor importance and where both he and his wife continued to reside until their death. As already stated, William M. Law was born in the province of Ontario, Canada, and he is a son of Captain William Law, who served as an officer in the English army and who immigrated to Canada when a young man. There his marriage was solemnized and there he was identified with agricultural pursuits until shortly after the close of the Civil war in the United States, when he came to Iowa and established his home in Black Hawk county, where he secured a tract of wild land and reclaimed the same into a productive farm. After his retirement from active labors he took up his abode at Cedar Falls, this state, where he con-

tinued to reside until his death, which occurred about the year 1888. His widow, whose maiden name was Harriette Bradley passed the residue of her life at Cedar Falls and attained to the venerable age of eighty-nine years; she was summoned to the life eternal in 1908. William M. Law took up his residence in Waterloo in 1894, when he assumed the office of sheriff of Black Hawk county, in which he served for a period of ten years. He still owns his valuable farm and is one of the well known and highly esteemed citizens of Black Hawk county, with whose civic and material development and upbuilding he has been closely identified. For a number of years he was secretary, treasurer and manager of the Waterloo Cement Machinery Company, of which he was one of the organizers, and he has been an influential factor in business and public affairs in his county. William M. and Eliza J. Law became the parents of five children, of whom the subject of this review was the third in order of birth. Concerning the other children the following brief data are given: Ralph A. is cashier of the Central Savings Bank of Waterloo; William R. is incumbent of the office of postmaster of that city; Nellie is the wife of Robert W. Parrott, of Waterloo; and Harriet is the wife of Fredrick A. Fenton, of Huron, South Dakota. All of the children were born and reared in Black Hawk county.

Harvey E. Law was about four years of age at the time of the family removal from the farm to the village of Hudson, where he gained his rudimentary education in the public schools. He was ten years of age when his father took up his residence in the city of Waterloo, and, continuing his studies in the public schools, the subject of this review completed the curriculum of the high school in East Waterloo, in which he was graduated as a member of the class of 1901. He was matriculated in the University of Iowa, at Iowa City, in the autumn of 1903 and there pursued his studies in both the academic and law departments, in the latter of which he was graduated as a member of the class of 1907, with the degree of Bachelor of Laws. After his graduation he made a trip through the west in company with his classmate and present law partner, Fredrick A. Ontjes, concerning whom specific mention is made on other pages of this work. In September, 1907, the firm of Ontjes & Law was formed and instituted practice at Mason City, and the two young men have well proved the wisdom of their choice of profession, as both are strong, aggressive and well fortified representatives of the legal profession in Cerro Gordo county and are meeting with unequivocal success in the work of their profession.

In politics Mr. Law is aligned under the banner of the Republi-

can party and is well fortified in his opinions as to matters of public polity. He is affiliated with the local organizations of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Modern Brotherhood of America, the Woodmen of the World and the Tribe of Ben Hur. His religious views are in harmony with the tenets of the Presbyterian church, in whose faith he was reared. He is a member of the Phi Kappa Psi college fraternity. Mr. Law is loyal and liberal in his attitude as a citizen, and he enjoys marked popularity in professional, business and social circles in his home city and county. He was married September 7th, 1910, at Waterloo, Iowa, to Miss Esther Jackson, who is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alvan Jackson of that place, Mr. Jackson being in the wholesale lumber business there.

ROBERT M. WITWER.

The present city attorney of Mason City merits recognition in this publication as one of the fairly representative and distinctively able members of the bar of Cerro Gordo county, where the success in the work of his profession has been of unequivocal type, showing conclusively that his equipment for his chosen vocation is excellent, both from natural predilection and technical training. Mr. Witwer is a native son of the Hawkeye state, as he was born in the city of Cedar Rapids, on the 4th of April, 1870. He is a son of John J. and Sarah (Harron) Witwer, who still retain their residence in that city. John Jay Witwer was born at Williamsville, Erie county, New York, where he was reared and educated, and in 1860 he made his way across the plains and over the mountains to California, where he remained about seven years, at the expiration of which he took up his residence in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where he has maintained his abode since 1867. He has long been numbered among the leading business men of that city and through his honorable and progressive efforts has contributed his quota to its commercial and industrial precedence. He has been engaged in the grocery business and also in the manufacturing of coffee and spices. He still has interests in Cedar Rapids but is now living virtually retired. The lineage of the Witwer family is traced back to the staunch Swiss stock, but the name early became identified with civic and industrial affairs in Holland, whence came the original progenitors to America about the year 1627. The family was founded in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and from the old Keystone state John Witwer, grandfather of the sub-

ject of this sketch, moved to Erie county, New York, where he became a successful miller and an influential citizen and business man. The mother of him whose name initiates this review was doubly orphaned when an infant and she was reared to maturity in the home of her maternal uncle, Robert Millar, in Batavia, New York. She is of Scotch descent in the paternal line and on the maternal side the ancestry is traced back to English origin. John J. and Sarah (Harroun) Witwer became the parents of four children of whom the subject of this review is the only son; Esther C. is the wife of Van Dyke Fort, who is general freight agent for the Illinois Central Railroad Company at Cedar Rapids, Iowa; and Rachel E. and Bertha H. remain at the parental home.

Robert M. Witwer gained his early education in the public schools of his native city, where he prosecuted a higher academic course in Coe College. After leaving this institution he began reading law in the office and under the preceptorship of Judge N. M. Hubbard of Cedar Rapids, who had presided on the bench of the circuit court and who was one of the old members of the bar of Linn county. Mr. Witwer was admitted to the bar in Cedar Rapids fifteen years ago, and in his native city he initiated the practice of his profession, besides which he was identified with surveying and other civil engineering work in that section for some time. At the inception of the Spanish-American war Mr. Witwer enlisted in June, 1898, as a member of the Fifth Iowa Battery. He was mustered out and received his honorable discharge in November, 1898, and he then returned to his home city of Cedar Rapids, where he remained until the opening of the following year, when he removed to Mason City. Here he has been actively and successfully engaged in the practice of his profession since the 31st of January of that year and he has gained an excellent reputation as a resourceful and versatile trial lawyer and as a counselor well informed in the minutia of the law and as one of exceptionally mature judgment. He has finely equipped offices in the Cliggitt building. He has taken an active interest in public affairs of a legal order since coming to Mason City and here is one of the influential factors in the council of the Republican party. On the 25th of March, 1908, he was appointed county attorney to fill out an unexpired term and he retired from this office in January of the following year. He was appointed city attorney in December, 1908, and the public estimate made of his services in this connection was indicated by his election to the office in the spring of 1909.

On the 24th of June, 1903, was solemnized the marriage of

Mr. Witwer to Miss Anna Dickinson Fay, who was born and reared in Ohio, and who is a woman of culture and gracious personality. For several years prior to her marriage she was the principal of the Mason City high school. She is a daughter of Nathaniel and Roxann (Woodburg) Fay, both descendants of families founded in New England in the early colonial epoch. The father was born in the state of Maine and died in West Virginia, at the patriarchal age of ninety-five years; the mother died at the age of thirty-seven years. Mr. and Mrs. Witwer have one son, John J., who was born on the 21st of May, 1906.

JAMES W. DAWSON.

James W. Dawson has for years conducted a general blacksmith shop at Clear Lake, Iowa, and there are few men—if any—in the town who are better known or more highly respected than he.

Mr. Dawson dates his identity with Cerro Gordo county from 1870, when, a youth of fifteen years, he came here with his parents from Wisconsin. He was born in Racine county, Wisconsin, October 27, 1855, son of Robert and Susanna (Everson) Dawson, natives of England. In 1853, just two weeks after their marriage, his father and mother left their old home on the British Isle and came to America. They spent two years in New York, then came west to Wisconsin, and fifteen years later came over into the neighboring state of Iowa and settled on a farm in Grant township, Cerro Gordo county. Robert Dawson was engaged in agricultural pursuits all his life. He improved a fine farm in Grant township where he lived to the ripe age of eighty-one years. He died here November 8, 1907. His wife died in 1888, at the age of fifty-six years. Both were worthy members of the Methodist Episcopal church. They were the parents of fifteen children, of which number four died in infancy and two in early youth. Those now living are: James W., the subject of this sketch; Joseph H., a farmer of Grant township; Loren E., engaged in farming near Clear Lake; Fred, also engaged in farming in Grant township; Lillie, wife of J. H. Miller, living near Clear Lake; Amelia, wife of J. H. Chadbourne, living near Vandalia, Illinois; Charles, employed in a store at Los Angeles, California; Lewis B., a California farmer; Chester, of Lisbon, North Dakota, engaged in farming; and Carter of Heckla, South Dakota, employed as a mechanic.

After receiving a good common school education James W. Dawson showed his preference for a mechanical rather than an agricultural life by going to Rockford, Floyd county, and entering

upon an apprenticeship to the blacksmith's trade. He spent three years there and then came to Clear Lake and opened a shop. That was in 1879. Here he soon had a firstclass, well equipped shop, which he has conducted for thirty years, with the exception of about three years when, on account of an accident, he was disabled for work at his trade and gave his attention to other matters. At one time he owned a half interest in the Clear Lake *Mirror* and was its business manager. Later he was interested in a hardware store at Garner, Iowa, which he conducted and which he sold in order to resume work in his shop. Of recent years he has employed an assistant most of the time.

In 1881 Mr. Dawson married, in Butler county, Iowa, Miss Ermina Heritage. She was born in New Jersey and was reared in Illinois, to which latter state she moved with her parents when a small child and from whence, in the early '70s, she came to Iowa. Her mother, a resident of Greene, Iowa, and a well preserved woman, celebrated her eighty-fifth birthday on the 1st of February, 1910. Her father died when a little past forty. In the Heritage family were seven children, of whom two died in infancy and five are still living. Mr. and Mrs. Dawson have an adopted daughter, Daisy Dawson, now the wife of Harold L. Lake, of Clear Lake.

Politically Mr. Dawson has always been a Republican. He served as a member of the City Council and at this writing is one of the school board. He is a Mason and an Odd Fellow and fills the office of secretary in both lodges, his incumbency of this office in the Masonic lodge dating back five years and in the I. O. O. F. lodge, fifteen years. He and his wife attend worship at the Congregational church.

FREBORN E. STEWART.

F. E. Stewart, of Clear Lake, Iowa, belongs to the fast thinning ranks of Civil war veterans. As such and as a representative citizen of Cerro Gordo county, a sketch of his life is of interest in this work, and, briefly, is as follows:

F. E. Stewart was born in St. Marion, Ogle county, Illinois, August 15, 1841, son of Samuel F. and Mary (Sweet) Stewart. Samuel F. Stewart, born September 1, 1803, was a native of Massachusetts, and his father, Jonathan, was born in Scotland and spent the first sixteen years of his life there. He traced his genealogy back to King James Stuart and to Mary Queen of Scots. In Massachusetts S. F. Stewart grew to manhood and married, April 11, 1837, and he made Illinois his home until 1842, when he moved

to Dane county, Wisconsin, where he was engaged in farming the rest of his life. He died there in 1876, at the age of seventy-two years. His wife, born November 5, 1807, in Oneida county, New York, died about 1872. In their family were three sons and two daughters, of whom two are deceased, those living being James and Charlotte, of Milton Junction, Wisconsin, and F. E., the subject of this sketch.

F. E. Stewart was reared in Dane county, Wisconsin, and was just emerging from his teens when Civil war was inaugurated. In answer to the ninety day call he enlisted his services and at the end of that time re-enlisted for three years, as a member of Company F, Thirteenth Wisconsin Infantry, with which command he participated in numerous engagements, including those of Franklin, Decatur, Nashville and Lookout Mountain, at first with the Twentieth Army Corps and later with the Fourth. He was mustered out December 19, 1865, at San Antonio, Texas, following a seige of typhoid fever in a field hospital.

Returning to Wisconsin at the close of his army service, he made his home there until about 1877, when he came to Iowa and settled in Cerro Gordo county. He owned and operated a farm in Lincoln township, subsequently selling it and buying another there; and after selling the second one came to Clear Lake township and invested in land near the county line. This last farm he also sold and has since lived retired.

Mr. Stewart married, in Wisconsin, March 27, 1866, Miss Lucinda A. Sprague, a native of Milton, Rock county, that state, born July 19, 1846, a daughter of Orrin and Amelia (Cady) Sprague, the former born in Otsego county, New York, and the latter in Pennsylvania. They went to Rock county, Wisconsin in an early day, and came to Howard county, Iowa, in 1852. Mr. Sprague was a blacksmith, and he died at Clear Lake, July 12, 1887, his wife dying February 25, 1878.

Mr. Sprague was one of the pioneers of Wisconsin, and he came to Iowa in 1852, as above stated. To him belongs the distinction of having built the first sawmill in Chickasaw county, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Stewart are the parents of three sons and one daughter; John H., Ira E. and David L., all of Clear Lake, the last two being partners in the transfer and ice business; and Nelia May, wife of W. F. Collins, also of Clear Lake.

In his political views Mr. Stewart is independent, and fraternally he is identified with the Masonic Order. Mrs. Stewart is a member of the Eastern Star and Relief Corps and attends the Methodist Episcopal church.



A. M. Rogers

PETER KNUTSON.

Peter Knutson, for the past thirty years a dealer in general hardware at Clear Lake, Iowa, owns the two-story-and-basement building his store occupies and does business under his own name, furnishing employment for four men. Also he owns the comfortable and attractive home on West Fifth street which he built and in which he and his family live.

Mr. Knutson is a Scandinavian. He was born in Norway July 15, 1844, and was a young man of twenty when in 1864 he left his native land and came to America. Here he landed with practically no capital. Like the majority of his countrymen, however, he had learned a trade and he was not afraid to work, and his experience here is interesting as showing what may be accomplished by an enterprising young man. He went direct to Minnesota and in Austin began in a small way in the boot and shoe business, shoemaking being his trade. Later he turned his attention to dealing in general merchandise, and in 1876 confined his business to hardware. Four years later he came to Iowa and settled at Clear Lake, and here since 1880, for a period of thirty years, he has conducted a prosperous business, handling a general line of hardware.

After coming to this country Mr. Knutson married a young woman of his own nationality, a Miss Olson who had emigrated from Norway to America in 1862. Of the children born to them, six are living, all natives of Cerro Gordo county, namely: Charles, engaged in the hardware business at Ventura, Iowa; George and Clarence, in the store with their father; Mrs. S. M. Stinby, Mrs. Dunsmore and Mrs. A. A. Prestholt, all of Clear Lake. One daughter, Mrs. Christianson, died at Clear Lake at the age of thirty-six years; and some others died in infancy.

Politically Mr. Knutson is a staunch Prohibitionist. He has served in various local offices, and at one time was the candidate of his party for the office of state treasurer. He belongs to the Gospel Missions, in which he is an elder.

FRANCIS M. ROGERS.

In an individual chain the memory of this honored citizen and representative business man of Clear Lake links the pioneer epoch in the history of Cerro Gordo county with the present opulent and progressive twentieth century, and he has played well his part in connection with the material and social development and upbuilding of this now favored section of the Hawkeye state.

which has been his home since his early youth. He is one of comparatively few of the pioneers of the county who came here at as early a period and who still retain their residence within its borders, so that special interest attaches to his career not only by reason of this fact but also because he has ever stood exemplar of the highest order of citizenship and played well his part as a man of productive energy and sterling character. It was his to go forth as a valiant soldier of the Union in the Civil war, and in the "Piping times of peace" his loyalty has been of equally impregnable character.

Francis M. Rogers, president of the First National Bank of Clear Lake, was born at Newstead, Erie county, New York, on the 20th of May, 1838, and is a son of Jarvis and Nancy (Green) Rogers, both of whom were born on Long Island, New York, both families having been founded in that commonwealth in an early day. The parents of Jarvis J. Rogers were natives of Long Island and there he himself was reared to maturity under the sturdy discipline of the farm. When he was a young man he accompanied his parents on their removal to Erie county, New York, where his marriage was solemnized and where he continued to be engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1851, when he removed to the city of Buffalo, where he conducted a market until 1855, in which year he disposed of his interests there and set forth to east in his lot with the pioneers of Iowa. The long and weary journey was made with a team and wagon and by this primitive means of transportation the parents and their six children made their way to Cerro Gordo county. Of the children only one other than the subject of this review is living—Mary E., who is the widow of Elihu Brown and who resides in Mason City. Upon coming to Cerro Gordo county Jarvis J. Rogers secured a tract of land upon which the town of Rockwell now stands, that section having been at that time called Linn Grove. He sold the property prior to the construction of the railroad to this point and before any village had been there established. He was one of the prominent and influential pioneers of the county and held at all times the inviolable confidence and esteem of the community in which he continued to reside until his death. He was a man of strong mentality and well equipped for leadership in the pioneer days. He was a member of the first board of supervisors of Cerro Gordo county and was called upon to serve in various other positions of public trust, including that of postmaster at Rockwell. He was originally a Whig in politics but transferred his allegiance to the Republican party at the time of its organization and ever afterward remained a stanch advocate of

its principles and policies. He was the owner of a well improved landed estate of three hundred and twenty acres adjoining the town of Rockwell at the time of his death, which occurred in September, 1871, when he was sixty years of age. His widow, a woman of noble and gracious character, long survived him and she attained to the extreme age of ninety-five years, passing the closing days of her life in the village of Rockwell and having been held in reverent affection by all who had come within the sphere of her gentle influence.

Concerning the journey from the old Empire state to the wilds of Iowa it may be stated that the Rogers family made the trip from Buffalo, New York, to Warren, Illinois, by rail. At the terminus of the Illinois Central Railroad they purchased two ox teams with wagons and with this primitive equipment continued their journey to their destination. This trip was made in the spring of the year when the sloughs were soft and miry and in many places it was found necessary to double the teams in order to pull through. When the family had arrived within about four miles of the present village of Rockwell their heavy wagon mired and the oxen were unable to pull it out of the mud. To add to the discomforts and obstacles encountered a heavy rain set in, the wind grew tempestuous and darkness came on, so that the whole party of nine persons was compelled to remain in the wagon throughout the night. When morning dawned the sky cleared and the outlook brightened in every particular. Members of the family went to Linn Grove and secured wood with which to kindle a fire for the preparation of the morning meal. The father and son then constructed a conveyance called a "wizard," made of the forks of a tree, and with this primitive outfit drawn by the oxen the family and household goods were finally brought to their destination, though several trips were made necessary to accomplish the desired end. The father selected his claim and in the first season broke twenty-five acres of sod, planting the tract with corn, potatoes and buckwheat. The closest neighbors were eight miles distant and there was no other settlement within fifteen or twenty miles. The nearest postoffice and mill was at Cedar Falls, fifty miles distant.

On the 1st of July, 1855, Francis M. Rogers and his father set forth for Cedar Falls with their two yoke of oxen, the purpose being to sell one yoke and thereby secure funds for the purchase of needed provisions. Failing to make a sale at Cedar Falls they drove on to Cedar Rapids, where they succeeded in disposing of one yoke of oxen, though they were compelled to take in exchange

two cows, in addition to which they received a small amount of money. A portion of this little fund was devoted to the purchase of the needed provisions and before the father and son returned home the family larder had been depleted to such an extent that the other members of the household had had nothing to eat for several days except wild game. The first summer in Iowa was a memorable one to the Rogers family. Until September they continued to live in their covered wagon, and they then took possession of their log house, which was twelve by eighteen feet in dimension and which proved very comfortable during the cold months which followed. In a reminiscent way Mr. Rogers stated to the writer that throughout that entire winter the family subsisted almost entirely on hulled corn, wild game and potatoes. The coming summer brought forth gracious crops and the family realized a considerable sum of money by lodging and boarding land seekers, who were courteously shown the section corners and given desired information in regard to land values. The winter of 1857-8 was severe in the extreme, snow falling to a depth of four feet and becoming heavily incrusted, so that it would uphold a man and sled. Under these conditions it was by the use of a hand sled that most of the family provisions were hauled during that winter from Mason City. In 1858 Jarvis J. Rogers, with the assistance of Lyman Hunt, who had settled about six miles south of Linn Grove, and John Whitesell, who with his family was living temporarily two miles southwest, built a log school house, which they pointed with mud and which they equipped with puncheon-floor and roof of shakes. This rude structure was the first school house in the southern part of Cerro Gordo county.

Francis M. Rogers, who had received his early educational training in the common schools of his native county, was seventeen years of age at the time of the family removal to Cerro Gordo county and it was his to live up to the full tension of the pioneer epoch of this section of the state. He assisted in the reclaiming of the home farm and here continued to be actively identified with agricultural pursuits until he felt the call of higher duty when the integrity of the Union was thrown into jeopardy through armed rebellion. In August, 1862, he enlisted as a private in Company B, Thirty-second Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and with this valiant command he continued in service until the close of the war, having received his honorable discharge at Montgomery, Alabama, in July, 1865. He participated in a number of severe engagements, including the battles of Pleasant Hill, Louisiana; Nashville and Tupelo, Tennessee; and the siege and capture of Fort Blakely and

the city of Mobile, Alabama, besides which he took part in a number of minor engagements with the enemy.

After the close of his long and meritorious service as a soldier of the republic Mr. Rogers returned to Cerro Gordo county and he was thereafter actively engaged in farming in Linn Grove township until the autumn of 1868, when he was elected clerk of the district court. His service in this capacity was most acceptable, as was shown by the fact that he was chosen his own successor in 1870 and again in 1872, thus serving for six consecutive years. Upon his retirement from office Mr. Rogers located in Mason City, where he entered into partnership with William E. Ensign and engaged in the clothing business. This alliance continued until 1886 and the firm built up a most prosperous enterprise, establishing a high reputation for fair and honorable dealing. After the dissolution of the partnership, in 1886, Mr. Rogers continued his residence in Mason City until the spring of 1889, when he removed to Clear Lake, where he purchased the Clear Lake Bank. This institution he conducted as a private banking house for a number of years and upon its re-organization as the First National Bank he became one of the largest of the original stockholders and the first president. He has since been executive head of this solid financial institution, and the other officers of the bank at the present time are here noted, Charles R. Hamstreet, vice president; Francis L. Rogers, cashier; and Ross R. Rogers, assistant cashier. Besides the president, vice president and cashier, the directorate of the bank includes John B. Heath, William H. Kimball, Albert Roenfanz and Elijah Tomkins. At the time of this writing (1910) the capital and surplus of the bank aggregate fully forty thousand dollars. Mr. Rogers is known as one of the substantial capitalists and progressive business men that has represented his home for more than half a century and in all relations of life he has so ordered his course as to merit and receive the implicit confidence and esteem of his fellow men. In politics Mr. Rogers has ever accorded an uncompromising allegiance to the cause of the Republican party and he has given his aid and influence in support of all measures and enterprises tending to further the social and material welfare of the community. While a resident of Mason City he served six years as a member of the board of education and in 1877-8 he was a member of the city council. Since his removal to Clear Lake he has served nine years as a member of the board of education and in 1895-6 he was mayor of Clear Lake, in whose city council he later served for some time. Mr. Rogers has ever maintained a lively interest in his old comrades in arms and signifies

the same by his membership in the Grand Army of the Republic. In this organization he is past commander of the C. H. Huntley Post, at Mason City, and also of Tom Howard Post, at Clear Lake, with which latter he has been affiliated since his removal to his present home city. He is also identified with the Masonic fraternity and its adjunct organization, the Order of the Eastern Star.

On October 4, 1865, Mr. Rogers married Miss Phoebe L. Richardson, daughter of S. M. Richardson. Of the seven children born to this union only three are now living, namely: Francis L. and Ross R., above mentioned as being in the bank, and Merle S., employed as clerk in a grocery store at Clear Lake.

A. B. PHILLIPS, M. D.

A. B. Phillips, M. D., one of the prominent young physicians of Clear Lake, Iowa, was born on a farm in Lincoln township, Cerro Gordo county, this state, March 25, 1877, a member of the Phillips family that settled here in pioneer days and of whom mention is made elsewhere in this volume.

Doctor Phillips passed his boyhood days on his father's farm and received his early education at Nora Springs Seminary, where he graduated in 1896. He then entered the State University of Iowa, from which in 1900 he received the degree of B. S. During this time his studies had been selected with the medical profession in view, and he then went to Chicago and pursued his medical studies at the Northwestern University Medical School, where he graduated in 1902. Six months later he opened an office at Clear Lake, where he soon proved his natural ability and acquired skill in the line of work he had chosen, and where he has established a successful practice.

He has membership in the Cerro Gordo County, Austin Flint, Cedar Valley, American Medical and the State Medical Societies, and by constant research and study keeps himself informed in regard to every advancement made in the science and practice of medicine. Politically he is identified with the Republicans and he takes an active interest in local affairs and has served as a school director. Fraternally he maintains membership in the A. F. & A. M., the K. of P. and the B. P. O. E. He and his wife attend worship at the Congregational church.

Mrs. Phillips, formerly Miss Agnes Allen, is a native of Ames, Iowa, and a member of one of the old families of that place. She and the doctor are the parents of two children, Robert A. and Albin B.

DAVID L. SPRAGUE.

David L. Sprague, who has a jewelry and general repair shop at Clear Lake, Iowa, dates his birth at Milton, Rock county, Wisconsin, April 23, 1840, and to him belongs the distinction of being the first white child born in the township. In his veins is a mixture of Scotch-Irish, German and Welsh blood. His ancestors figured as pioneer settlers of New York and Pennsylvania, the Spragues having come here from Scotland, from whence they were banished on account of their religion, they being of Quaker persuasion. Orrin and Amelia (Cady) Sprague, the parents of David L., were natives respectively of Otsego county, New York, and Tioga county, Pennsylvania, the former born in 1803, the latter in 1810. In 1838 they moved to Wisconsin, where they remained until 1853, when they came to Iowa and he entered land in Howard county, his entry being the first made in that county. Two years later he returned to Wisconsin, but finally he came back to Iowa, and at Clear Lake passed the closing years of his life and died at a ripe old age. By trade he was a blacksmith, but he owned land and spent some years engaged in agricultural pursuits. His wife died in Wisconsin. She was a devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Of their thirteen children who grew to maturity seven are now living, scattered in different states, two being at Clear Lake, Iowa—David L. Sprague and Mrs. F. E. Stewart.

David L. Sprague was reared in Rock county, Wisconsin, and in his young manhood was variously employed, blacksmithing, carpentering, dentistry, etc. He soon settled down to the jewelry business, however, and for forty years has conducted a repair shop in this line of work. He accompanied his parents to Iowa in 1853, and remained with them two years. Then he went to Boone county, this state, and in 1869 returned to Wisconsin. On February 14, 1883, he came back to Iowa, this time to Cerro Gordo county, where he has since lived. After farming in this county one year he moved to Clear Lake which has since been his home.

In 1864, at Delevan, Wisconsin, Mr. Sprague married Mrs. Wood, nee Lovinia C. Campbell, a native of Tioga county, Pennsylvania, who as a child had gone with her parents to Wisconsin, where she was reared. To them have been given four children, of whom three are living, namely: George L., of Severana, Idaho, where he is engaged in farming; Herman E., engaged in railroad work at Hilliard, near Spokane, Washington; and Frank, employed in the power house of the electric railroad at Clear Lake. A daughter died at the age of five months.

During the Civil war Mr. Sprague was a member of Company E, Twenty-second Wisconsin Volunteers, having enlisted at Janesville, Wisconsin, August 11, 1862, and served until September, 1863, when he was discharged at Louisville, Kentucky, on account of disability, he having been ill and in the hospital. For years he has been a member of Thomas Howard Post, G. A. R., and his identity with the Odd Fellows organization covers a period of twenty years. Mrs. Sprague belongs to both the Woman's Relief Corps and the Rebekahs. Politically Mr. Sprague has always cast his franchise with the Republican party, and at different times has filled local offices.

WILLIAM A. HOLDREN.

A man of integrity and worth, William A. Holdren, of Mason City, holds a position of prominence among the county officials, as sheriff of Cerro Gordo county performing the duties devolving upon him with credit to himself and most acceptably to the people. A son of the late David Holdren, he was born March 1, 1868, in Lee county, Illinois. David Holdren was born and reared in Pennsylvania, and there learned the cabinet maker's trade. Migrating to Illinois in early manhood, he worked for awhile in Chicago, from there going in 1861 to Compton, Lee county, Illinois, where he remained until his death, in 1889, at the age of sixty-two years. His wife, whose maiden name was Lucretia McCoy, was born in Michigan seventy-nine years ago, and is now living in Princeton, Illinois. Six children were born to them, five of whom survive, as follows: Margaret, wife of Jesse Wilder, of Aurora, Illinois; Alice, wife of T. L. King, of Clear Lake, Iowa; Hattie, wife of Thomas Trimble, of Princeton, Illinois; William A., the subject of this sketch; and Caroline M., of Mason City.

Brought up in Compton, Illinois, William A. Holdren received a practical high school education in that village. Coming to Iowa after his marriage, he located in Pleasant Valley township, Cerro Gordo county, where for two years he had charge of his father's farm. Retiring from agricultural labors, he was subsequently engaged in the grain and coal business at Thornton for six years. Selling out, Mr. Holdren conducted a restaurant there for a short time, after which he embarked in the furniture and undertaking business, which he continued until 1903. Elected sheriff of Cerro Gordo county in that year, Mr. Holdren has served continuously since, having been twice re-elected to this office. Previously, while

living in Thornton, he filled various public offices, having served as marshal, constable and as a justice of the peace.

Identified with various beneficial organizations, Mr. Holdren's name is well known in lodge rooms, where he is ever a welcome guest. He is a member of A. F. & A. M., Granite Lodge, No. 557 of Thornton, Iowa; No. 224, I. O. O. F.; of Mason City Lodge, No. 375, B. P. O. E.; of Midland Lodge, No. 226, M. B. A.; and of Wileox Camp No. 709, M. W. A.

Mr. Holdren married, May 25, 1887, Etta R. Stevens, who was born in Lee county, Illinois, in September, 1864, a daughter of Henry and Mary J. (Sivey) Stevens. Her father died in Lee county, Illinois, in 1892, aged sixty-five years, and her mother, now seventy years old, makes her home with Mr. and Mrs. Holdren. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Holdren has been blessed by the birth of four children, namely: Virgil L., of Sheffield, Iowa; Homer H.; Wilbur and Ada M. Mrs. Holdren is a most estimable woman, highly esteemed as a neighbor and a friend, and is a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

JAMES E. McDONALD, M. D.

A man of acknowledged professional skill and ability, James E. McDonald, M. D., of Mason City, has here gained a large and lucrative practice, his natural talents and industry classing him among the most successful physicians and surgeons of this part of Cerro Gordo county. A son of the late William McDonald, he was born, September 10, 1868, in Buchanan county, Iowa, of thrifty Scotch ancestry.

Born in 1826 in Scotland, William McDonald worked at the carpenter's trade as a boy, and in 1840, at the age of fourteen years, came to the United States, the land of golden opportunities. Locating in Albany, New York, he was soon employed in building canal boats and locks along the Erie Canal, working his way across the state to Buffalo. Going from there to Chicago, he entered the employ of the Illinois Central Railroad Company and built all the railroad bridges between Dubuque, Iowa, and Dyersville, Iowa. He was forced to take eighty acres of land in Buchanan county, Iowa, as part payment for his services, and assuming possession of his land he erected a small house, hauling the lumber from which it was made a distance of sixty miles. Improving a good farm, he lived on it until 1900, when he removed to Independence, Iowa, where his death occurred a few months later, in 1900. He married

Ann McGary, who was born in Montreal, Canada, in 1836, and died in Iowa in 1904.

The oldest of a family of ten children, James E. McDonald was brought up on the parental farm in common with his brothers and sisters acquiring his rudimentary education in the district schools. In June, 1888, he was graduated from Tilford Academy at Vinton, Iowa, and three years later, in 1891, he was graduated from the Chicago School of Pharmacy. The following two years Mr. McDonald was engaged in the drug business at Independence, Iowa, during which time he began the study of medicine, making such progress that on March 7, 1893, he was graduated from the Keokuk Medical School with the degree of M. D. Immediately locating in Rowley, Buchanan county, Iowa, Dr. McDonald conducted a successful business as a druggist and built up a large practice as a physician in that place, continuing there six years. Selling out in 1899, the Doctor came direct to Mason City, where he has devoted his entire time and attention to the practice of medicine and surgery, being now one of the leading physicians and surgeons of the city. He is a close student, keeping abreast of the times in regard to all new discoveries and improvements used in his profession, and in 1898 he took a post graduate course at the Chicago West Side Clinical School.

Dr. McDonald married, September 10, 1902, Millie Hamlin, who was born in Lyle, Minnesota, December 16, 1874, and they have one child, Jeanne C.

The Doctor is connected with various professional organizations, belonging to the Cerro Gordo County Medical Association; to the Iowa State Medical School; and to the American Medical Association. He is active and prominent in fraternal orders, being a member of Mason City Lodge, No. 375, B. P. O. E.; of Mason City Council, No. 1006, K. of C.; Mason City Aerie, No. 1655 F. O. of E.; of Saint Joseph's Court, No. 1051, Catholic Order of Foresters; of Wilcox Camp, No. 709, M. W. A.; of Midland Lodge, No. 226, M. B. A.; and both Dr. and Mrs. McDonald are members of Tirzah Court, No. 3, Tribe of Ben Hur. Religiously the Doctor and his wife belong to the Holy Family Catholic church. In his political affiliations the Doctor is a sound Republican.

BLYTHE, MARKLEY, RULE & SMITH.

In entering consistent record concerning the representative members of the bar of Cerro Gordo county there is all of propriety in making special mention of the well known and important

firm whose title initiates this sketch. In its personnel are found lawyers well trained and of pronounced ability in their exacting profession, and their individual and co-ordinate success and prestige stand in significant evidence of their personal integrity and admirable equipment of technical order. As direct successors of a firm founded in Mason City more than thirty years ago, Blythe, Markley, Rule & Smith stand in a place of marked priority, and they control a large and representative business, involving identification with much of the important litigation in the courts of this section of the state. The members of the original firm were Frank M. Goodykoontz and Richard Wilber, both of whom died a number of years ago. This partnership was dissolved in the late '70s and Mr. Goodykoontz then formed a partnership alliance with James E. Blythe. Later Edward S. Wheeler was admitted to the firm, the title of which was thereupon changed to Goodykoontz, Blythe & Wheeler. In the autumn of 1881 James E. E. Markley purchased the interests of Messrs. Goodykoontz and Wheeler, and for several years thereafter the business was successfully continued under the title of Blythe & Markley. Judge Clifford Smith was a member of the firm about five years and retired therefrom in 1900, to assume his position on the bench of the district court. In 1903 Arthur L. Rule was admitted to partnership and in 1905 Clarence H. Smith also became a member of the firm, whose present title was then adopted. The law business controlled by this important firm is one of the largest in the state, and under the various changes in partnership the concern has maintained the highest professional standard through the fine character and distinctive ability of its interested principals. A. S. Rinard, former county attorney, was a member of the firm about one year, having succeeded Judge Smith and having retired at the time of his election to the office mentioned. For a long period the firm had its offices in the City National Bank Building, and it is conceded that the present offices of the concern, in the fine new Park Inn Hotel building, erected by Messrs. Blythe and Markley, of the firm, are not excelled by any utilized for similar purposes in the entire state. The hotel building, essentially modern in architecture and all appointments, is located on State street, and is one of the finest business structures in Mason City. The bar of Cerro Gordo county has ever held to a high standard, and in the maintenance of this gratifying prestige the firm here noted has contributed in generous measure.

ABSALOM H. GALE.

A scion of one of the honored pioneer families of Iowa, it has been given Mr. Gale to achieve prominence and influence as one of the representative business men and influential citizens of Cerro Gordo county, where he is now vice president of the City National Bank of Mason City and where he has other important capitalistic interests. He has been a valued factor in public affairs in his city and county and is a former member of the Iowa state senate, in which he made an admirable record.

Absalom H. Gale was born at Iowa Falls, Hardin county, Iowa, on the 28th of February, 1863, and is a son of Thomas K. and Ann (Attwool) Gale, both of whom were born and reared in England, where their marriage was solemnized. They had maintained their home at Portland, England, for some time prior to their removal to America, and they took up their residence in Iowa Falls, Iowa, in 1858. Thomas K. Gale was a mason contractor and in England had been associated with his brother in the handling of large and important contracts of this order. They constructed the fine break water in the harbor of Portland, England, and the brother had charge of the building of a portion of the extensive breakwater constructed by the British government on the Nile, in Egypt. Thomas K. Gale became one of the leading contractors in the line of mason work in Iowa, where he erected a large number of public buildings, including the old court house at Hampton, Franklin county. In 1870 he removed with his family to Mason City, where both he and his wife passed the residue of their lives. Here he constructed the bridge of the Iowa Central Railroad and he also carried to successful completion many other important contracts here and in other sections of the state. He was a man of fine business and technical ability and his sterling integrity in all the relations of life gained to him the implicit confidence and high regard of all with whom he came in contact. He was a stanch adherent of the Republican party and both he and his wife were devout and zealous members of the Methodist Episcopal church. In the church of this denomination in Mason City he held the office of class leader for a period of about thirty two years. Here he died in 1905, at the venerable age of seventy-four years, and his cherished and devoted wife attained to the same age; she was summoned to the life eternal in 1907. Concerning their children the following brief data are entered: Jennie is the widow of James Rule of Mason City, of whom mention is made on other pages of this volume; Harriet became the wife of M. M. Bradley and she

died in this city in 1909; Absalom H., subject of this review, was the next in order of birth; George is a resident of Mason City; Rev. Thomas K. is a member of the clergy of the Methodist Episcopal church and is a resident of the city of Chicago at the time of this writing, in 1910; and B. A. is engaged in looking after rentals, buildings, etc., for his brother A. H., to whom this sketch is dedicated.

A. H. Gale was a lad of about five years at the time of the family removal from Iowa Falls to Mason City, and here he was duly accorded the advantages of the excellent public schools, after leaving which he entered the University of Iowa at Iowa City, where he completed the course in civil engineering and was duly graduated. For the ensuing two years he devoted his attention to his profession in the employ of the Union Pacific Railroad Company, and in this connection he had charge of the erection of the fine union passenger station at Ogden, Utah. After severing his connection with the railroad company he returned to Mason City, and here, in 1886, he assumed a clerical position in the City Bank, which was later reorganized as the City National Bank and which is one of the substantial and popular financial institutions of this part of the state. He has been consecutively identified with the affairs of this bank and has been its vice-president since 1905. Mr. Gale is also an interested principal in corporations engaged in the lime and cement business in Mason City, and is the owner of a large amount of valuable realty in this city and also in other parts of the county. He is one of the broad-minded, progressive and loyal citizens of the county and is ever ready to extend his influence and co-operation in the furtherance of all measures tending to advance the material and civic prosperity of the community.

In politics Mr. Gale is found arrayed as a stalwart in the camp of the Republican party, and he has been active as a worker in its cause. He has held the offices of city clerk and treasurer of the board of education, and in 1904 he was elected to represent his district in the state senate, in which he was a valued worker during four sessions and in which he was influential in the deliberations of the body and those of the committee room. He is affiliated with the local organizations of the Masonic fraternity, Knights of Pythias, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Modern Woodmen of America and Modern Brotherhood of America, in which last organization he has been supreme treasurer of the Iowa state body since 1903. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, as was also his wife.

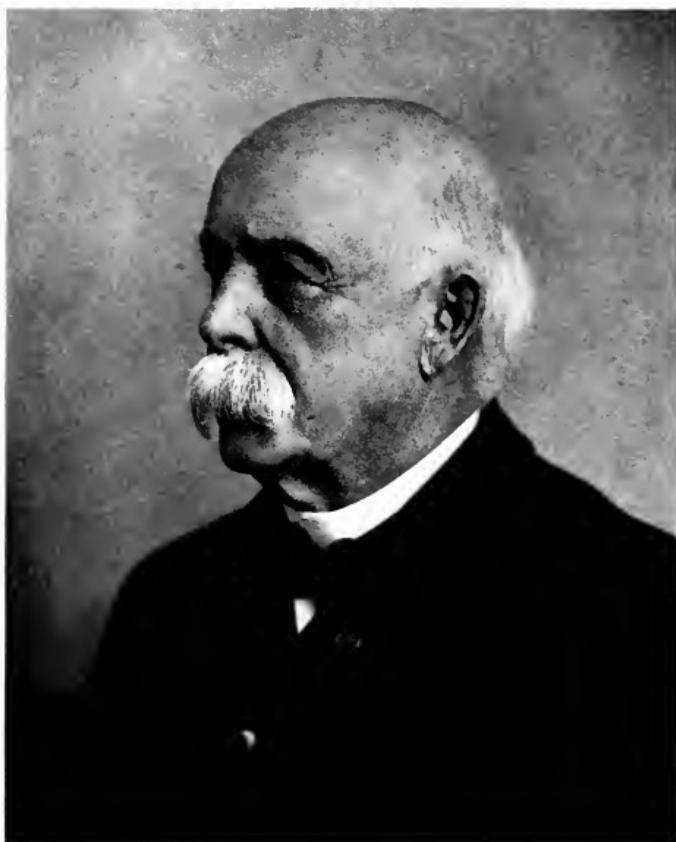
On the 8th of October, 1893, Mr. Gale was united in marriage to Miss Mabel Emsley, who was born and reared at Mason City, Iowa, and who was a daughter of the late Thomas G. Emsley, an honored and influential citizen of Mason City at the time of his death. His biography is found on another page of this work. Mrs. Gale was summoned to the life eternal on the 26th of July, 1904, and is survived by one son, Cecil, who was born on the 21st of July, 1895.

WINSLOW CASSIDAY TOMPKINS.

Winslow Cassiday Tompkins, a retired citizen of Clear Lake, Iowa, has been a resident of this place since 1862 (with the exception of three years spent in the army), and during this time he has been actively identified with business interests here.

Mr. Tompkins was born in Lockport, New York, January 31, 1836, a son of Enoch and Deborah (Westbrooke) Tompkins, natives of the Empire state and representatives of families long resident there. Originally the Tompkins family were Quakers. Enoch Tompkins was by trade a tanner and currier. He died in Canada about 1847, where he had resided for some years. His widow survived him until 1868, when she died at Clear Lake, Iowa, at the age of sixty. They were the parents of nine children, of whom three sons and two daughters are now living.

About 1845, when a small boy, Winslow C. Tompkins came west as far as Stephenson county, Illinois, where for several years he made his home with relatives, working on a farm and attending school. In 1854 he came over into Iowa and in Hardin county hired to work for a man with whom he remained until the spring of 1856. Then he went to Iowa Falls, sent for his mother and other members of the family to join him, and in the following year they all moved to Clear Lake. Here the mother spent the rest of her life. Winslow C., however, went back to Iowa Falls, where during the winter of 1858-9 he attended school. In the spring he set out on foot for Leavenworth, Kansas, and covered the whole distance in ten days and a half. In the spring of 1860 he left Leavenworth en route to Denver, Colorado, employed as driver of an ox team, and he worked for one man a year. In the spring of 1861 Mr. Tompkins went to New Mexico and tried his hand at mining. He was at Leadville, Colorado, then called California Gulch, when the first battle of Bull Run was fought. In October, 1861, he came back to Iowa and spent the following winter with his mother at Clear Lake. The war continued and more soldiers



W.C. Tompkins

were needed, and on March 22, 1862, young Tompkins enlisted as a member of Company C, Twelfth U. S. Infantry, with which company in May he left for Fort Hamilton, New York, where he spent a year on detached service. After the battle of Gettysburg he joined his company in the field, and remained with that command until 1865. In April of that year he was honorably discharged at Fort Hamilton, after which he returned home. During his service he took part in the following nine battles: Rappahannock Station, Mine Run, the Wilderness, Spottsylvania, North Anna, Bethesda Church, Cold Harbor, Petersburg and Weldon Railroad, where he was taken prisoner. He was seven months a prisoner of war, being in Belle Isle, Salisbury and Libby Prisons. He had some close calls but came out of the army with no serious injury.

After the war Mr. Tompkins engaged in farming. In 1879 he was elected county treasurer, taking the office in 1880, and he served eight years, four terms. In 1889, he engaged in a wholesale business, which he continued for two years, also having other business interests in both Clear Lake and Mason City, at the latter place being with the wholesale grocery firm of Francisco Dyer & Company. He then came to Clear Lake and engaged in the retail lumber business, being a member of the firm of Woodford, Wheeler & Tompkins, lumber dealers, who operated seven yards in different towns and for fifteen years up to 1905 he was in this business.

From his early identity with Clear Lake, Mr. Tompkins always took a deep interest in its welfare and also in that of the county. As stated, he served four terms as county treasurer and was the nominee of his party for a fifth term, and also served two terms as mayor of Clear Lake. As his father died when he was but eleven years of age and he helped to support his mother and younger brothers and sisters, it is very evident that Mr. Tompkins is a self-made man. He now owns three hundred and twenty acres (two farms) in the county.

In April, 1868, Mr. Tompkins married Miss Jean Duncan, who was born of Scotch parentage in Canada but reared in Illinois. Her father owned a farm near Clear Lake, Iowa, and for a time resided there. Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Tompkins: Earl Duncan, a practicing physician at Clarion, Iowa, and Bertha, who died at the age of thirteen months. Mr. Tompkins and his wife attend worship at the Methodist Episcopal church. They reside in the pleasant home which he built in the north part of Clear Lake. Fraternally he is identified with the Masonic

Order and the Grand Army of the Republic. In 1904 he was one of five commissioners appointed by Governor Cummins on the Andersonville Committee to erect a monument at Andersonville.

JOHN GREGORY LINDON.

For forty years John Gregory Lindon has maintained his residence at Clear Lake, Iowa, where his efforts to win success have been splendidly rewarded. Today he is the owner of about three thousand acres of fine land in Union and Lake townships, Cerro Gordo county, the bulk of it being in Union township. His home place, comprising two hundred acres, is within the corporate limits of Clear Lake, and his beautiful home on East Main street is on the trolley line.

Mr. Lindon was born in Warwickshire, England, February 15, 1850, a son of English parents who lived and died in Warwickshire. His father and forefathers were stock men, and it was in the stock business that he had his early training. Soon after the death of his father, which occurred when John G. was seventeen, he came to America. In the fall of 1869 he landed in Wisconsin, where he remained until April, 1871, when he came to Iowa and took up his residence at Clear Lake. At that time he purchased a small farm, to which from time to time he added until he became the possessor of the fine estate he now owns, the greater portion of his land having been purchased in 1885. This land is practically all operated by him and his son, John G. Jr., and is utilized largely for stock purposes. Annually they handle large numbers of hogs, cattle and horses, at times grazing a thousand head, which they sell and ship to eastern markets. This stock business Mr. Lindon began when he first settled here, and to him belongs the distinction of being the first to ship stock from Cerro Gordo county. Formerly he bought dressed hogs, and in this business covered a territory within a radius of forty miles from Clear Lake. Both as a farmer and business man his standing is in the front rank in Cerro Gordo county.

Mrs. Lindon, formerly Miss Quick, was born in Ohio, from whence, in 1871, with her parents, James and Mary E. Quick, she removed to Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, and settled on a farm. She and Mr. Lindon have one son, John G. Jr., already referred to as being associated in business with his father, and two daughters, Mrs. F. E. Hill and Mrs. F. G. Murphy, the latter of Clear Lake and mentioned on another page of this work. Mr. Hill's residence is in Clear Lake, and he is a member of the Mason City Lime & Cement Company. They have one daughter, Miriam E.

Politically Mr. Lindon is a Republican, and has always taken a commendable interest in public affairs. He has rendered efficient service as a member of the City Council and School Board of Clear Lake, and is one of the substantial members of the Clear Lake Commercial Club. The whole family are identified with the Methodist Episcopal church, and the son has membership in numerous social organizations of the town.

JAMES S. MOTT.

Standing prominent among the many well-to-do residents of Cerro Gordo county who came here from the British Isles poor in purse, but possessing an unlimited stock of energy and perseverance, is James S. Mott, a prosperous coal dealer of Mason City, Iowa. Mr. Mott is a man of initiative, and through his own well directed efforts he has made of success not an accident but a logical result. He is strictly a self-made man.

James S. Mott was born on the 1st of May, 1850, in county Cork, Ireland, and he is a son of James and Elizabeth (Sherlock) Mott, the former of whom was born and reared in Maldon, England, and the latter of whom was a native of the Fair Emerald Isle, her birth having occurred in county Antrim, Ireland. James Mott served twenty-three years in the British army when a young man. In this connection he was stationed in Ireland, where his marriage was solemnized and where he resided until 1856, when he removed with his family to Colchester, England. There he was employed as a farm laborer until his death, which occurred in 1875, at the age of sixty-five years. His wife preceded him to the life eternal and her death occurred in 1852, at forty years of age. At the time of his parents' removal to England James S. Mott was a child of but five years and when he had attained his ninth year he began working in a silk factory. His very limited educational privileges were supplemented by such knowledge of books as a bright and observing lad could pick up at odd moments. When in his twentieth year he resolved to sever the ties which bound him to home and native land and seek his fortune in the new world. Accordingly, in the spring of 1871, he bade good-bye to the scenes of his youth and immigrated to the United States, locating at Waverly, Iowa, a few months later moving to Mason City. In this vicinity he worked as a farm hand for a period of four years, at the expiration of which he invested his earnings in farm land, purchasing eighty acres in section 34, Mason township, and he was there identified with agricultural pursuits for three years. In 1885, however,

he removed to Mason City, Cerro Gordo county, where he contracted to sprinkle the streets. In this connection he gave most satisfactory and valuable service for four years, oftentimes sprinkling the streets with seven or eight loads of water which he had dipped with a bucket from Willow creek before breakfast. He labored diligently in the interests of the people and won the reputation of giving the best service in that department ever before enjoyed. Selling out that industry he was thereafter engaged in draying until 1895, when he opened his present coal yard, which he has conducted with strict adherence to principles of honesty and integrity. Mr. Mott has acquired property of much value, including a tract of twenty acres of land within the corporate limits of the city.

In politics James S. Mott accords a staunch allegiance to the Democratic party, in whose local councils he has been an active factor. He is alert and enthusiastically in sympathy with all measures and enterprises projected for the welfare of humanity. There are but few who will dare to take sides against him in an argument. He is a frequent contributor to the local papers and had the distinction of being the first "Henry George" man in the county. As a citizen he is loyal and public-spirited, and none is held in higher confidence and esteem in the community. Fraternally he is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of which order he is a past grand. He is frequently called for in the lodge room, where his ready wit and extensive knowledge render him an entertaining speaker.

On the 4th of July, 1875, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Mott to Miss Emma M. Eady, who was born in Essex county, England, on the 1st of June, 1851, and who came to Mason City in 1875. Mr. and Mrs. Mott have five children, namely: Leonard W., Oliver J., Olive M., Daisy, and Clinton. Mattie, the second daughter, died at the age of three months. L. W. Mott of Mason City is in the coal business with his father; O. J. Mott is the owner of the South Side Feed Store and other property on South Main street; Olive is the bookkeeper for the coal firm; Daisy, the youngest daughter, is the wife of J. E. Donnelly, of Clinton, Iowa; and Clinton is the youngest of the children.

JAMES RYBURN.

As does the center of every prosperous agricultural district, Rockwell has a large number of retired farmers as residents, and prominent among them is James Ryburn, an Illinois pioneer and

for over a quarter of a century a citizen of Cerro Gordo county. He was born in Argyleshire, Scotland, August 22, 1833, his parents being William and Ann (Mitchell) Ryburn, both of whom lived and died in their native country. Before his eleventh birthday Mr. Ryburn was left an orphan, and he went to live with an aunt, with whom he remained until his nineteenth year. He was one of eight children, five boys and three girls. Only two of them are alive at the present day, the subject of this biography and his sister, Mrs. Jane Cameron, of New Milford, Illinois.

Mr. Ryburn worked out for a number of years and in 1854 he made a radical change by taking passage on a sailing vessel which landed him at Quebec, Canada, after a seven weeks voyage. Almost immediately he came on to Belvedere, Boone county, Illinois, where he had relatives. That fall he stayed with an uncle and the following spring hired out to farmers by the month. In the matter of vocation he was following in the paternal footsteps, for his father had been a farmer. He continued to work out for the next five or six years and then made a more independent venture, renting a farm west near Rockford in Barrett township, Winnebago county, Illinois. About the time of the Civil war Mr. Ryburn bought a farm nearby, with the intention of paying for it on the installment plan, but his crops were a failure owing to the depredations of the chinch bugs and he had to give it up. He again rented land in Winnebago county and operated it until 1883, when he came to Bath township. Here he rented land for a year. In the late summer, however, he bought two hundred and forty acres in Bath township, paying twenty-five dollars an acre for it. This was an improved farm, partially fenced and with fairly good buildings. Mr. Ryburn proceeded to make many improvements, adding to the house and building a large barn, and here he lived until the fall of 1900, when he bought two lots in Rockwell and built a residence in which he has ever since made his home. His farm is at present operated by his son Neil.

In October, 1860, Mr. Ryburn espoused one of his own country-women, Miss Mary Flemming, who was born in Argyleshire and came to Canada in 1855 and to the United States in 1855. Mrs. Ryburn died January 9, 1905. To Mr. Ryburn and his wife were born seven children, four of whom survive, as follows: William, who lives on his own farm in Bath township; Neil, who has charge of the old home place; Flora, who is the wife of Harley E. Brown of Rockwell; and Mary, wife of Ed Piersol of Rockwell a traveling man. Mrs. Piersol is her father's housekeeper. Annie, James and Marion are deceased.

Mr. Ryburn gives his allegiance to the Republican party and for two terms was a member of the school board of Bath township. He is a member of the Congregational church, as was his wife before her demise. Since coming to Cerro Gordo county he has seen its marvelous growth, and conduced to this has been the building of three railroads through its extent—the Great Western, the Short Line and the Northwestern. It is a mistake, he says, to marvel at the low price of land in Iowa and Illinois in the early days, for it was harder to pay for it then than now.

BYRON BATE.

Byron Bate, a pioneer grocer and senior member of the Bate & Vroom Company, Mason City, Iowa, has been a prominent factor in the business activities of this place for more than thirty years.

Mr. Bate was born in Northumberland county Ontario, Canada, January 2, 1848, son of James and Clarasia (Marsh) Bate. James Bate, a native of Devonshire, England, came to Canada when sixteen years of age, and there passed his life as a farmer. He died in the fall of 1907, at the age of eighty-eight years. The mother, a native of Canada, died that same fall, her age at death being eighty-three. They were the parents of three children, only one of whom, the subject of this sketch, is living.

On his father's farm Byron Bate in his youth became familiar with every detail of farm work, including grubbing, and he attended school only until he was sixteen. He continued work on the farm until the fall of 1871, when he came to Mason City, Iowa. That was just previous to the memorable Chicago fire. His mother was in Chicago at the time on a visit. He hastened to the burning city and took his mother home. Then he returned to Mason City and for two years was employed as clerk there by D. J. Purdy. In the meantime he made several trips home, and on Christmas day, 1876, while in Canada, married Miss Lovina Morse, like himself a native of Canada, she having been born in Elgin county, Ontario, December 25, 1856. In order to induce him to remain at home his father deeded the young man half the farm. He remained two years, but he could not convince himself that he was ever intended for a farmer, and at the end of the two years he gladly released his interest, turning it back to his father and again came to Iowa. That was in the autumn of 1878. He clerked for D. J. Purdy two years, and then was engaged in the grocery business for himself in Spencer, Iowa, for three years. Returning then to Mason City, he formed a partner-

ship with his former employer, but after four years sold and he and Mr. Ray purchased Mr. Parker's interest in the firm of Parker & Vroom. Mr. Bate has since been connected with the firm. Business was conducted under the firm name of Bate, Vroom & Ray, but after three years Mr. Ray sold to the other two, and the business was continued under the style of Bate & Vroom until four years ago, when they took in another partner and changed the name of Bate, Vroom & Company. Mr. Bate began life with no capital and with practically little education, but has been able to meet the problems and obstacles that have presented themselves and has won his way to a comfortable success. He and his wife are the parents of five daughters, Nellie, Alice, Clara, Lois and Gladys, the three eldest having finished their education at Cornell College.

Politically Mr. Bate is a staunch Republican. He is a member of the I. O. O. F., and both he and his wife are identified as members with the Methodist Episcopal church.

JULIUS F. SIEWERTSEN.

Among the young and enterprising farmers of Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, is Julius F. Siewertsen, who lives on the farm in section 33, Falls township, where he was born on February 24, 1880. He is a son of Godber A. and Catherine (Johannsen) Siewertsen, both natives of Schleswig-Holstein, Germany. In his native country Godber Siewertsen was a roof-weaver or thatch-maker, and all his sons were taught the same trade. At the time he emigrated to the United States, in 1876, he had but just enough money to reach his destination. He spent the first summer with a brother, then purchased eighty acres of land with no improvements, where his son Julius now lives. He kept adding to his land as his success warranted until the place now contains two hundred and ninety-five acres of land, with two sets of buildings to accommodate two families. Mr. Siewertsen, who was born December 25, 1841, died June 4, 1910, at sixty nine years of age. His wife died in 1906, at the age of sixty-seven years. They were the parents of seven children, namely: Annie, wife of Paul Thompson of Blooming Prairie, Minnesota; Hattie, wife of Jurgen Jensen, of South Dakota; Johannah, wife of Thomas Casperson of Portland township; Augusta, wife of Cornelius Casperson, of Butterfield, Minnesota; Dora, wife of Christian Thomson, of Portland township; Julius; Matilda, wife of William Brakel, of Portland township.

Julius F. Siewertsen was reared on his father's farm and received a common school education. When he married he took charge of one hundred and eighty-seven acres of the home place, and he purchased the estate in the fall of 1910. He is a successful farmer and raises a good many cattle and hogs. He stands well in the community and in his business dealings is upright and honest. He pays close attention to all the details of his work and follows up-to-date methods. In politics he is a Republican, and he and his wife attend the German Lutheran church of Mason City, of which they are members.

On February 13, 1907, Mr. Siewertsen married Johannah Witt, who was born in Germany, March 30, 1885, and came to the United States in September, 1905. One daughter and one son have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Siewertsen, the former, deceased, and the latter, Herbert, born November 20, 1909.

SACRED HEART ACADEMY.

The Sacred Heart Academy, situated in Rockwell, is one of the most important educational institutions in this part of Iowa. It was erected in 1900, during the pastorate of Rev. Father Lawrence H. Burns, who is at the head of its management, Rev. Father J. J. Clune assisting. The location of the academy is ideal, for it is upon the highest elevation in the town, this being toward the northern boundary. Its construction is extremely substantial, the walls being built of brick, a tier of solid ones outside and backed by hollow ones, which insures its being very warm and dry. It is three stories high and has a basement besides, and is one hundred and ten feet long by sixty feet wide. In the center of the main building towards the back is a wing thirty-three by thirty-eight feet, with an eighteen foot ceiling, which is to be used as a chapel. Toward the extreme outer ends are two stairways, each seventeen by fifteen feet.

The height of the basement is eight feet; the first story twelve feet; the second story eleven feet; and the third story ten feet. The basement is used for fuel, boiler and storage rooms and also for the kitchen, dining room, laundry, pantry and so forth. The first floor is used exclusively for school purposes, here being found the school and music rooms and the living rooms for the sisters. Upon the second floor are to be found the quarters of the sisters, the dormitories and the like. The third story is a large hall supplied with numerous dormer windows and suitable for entertainments and exercises of various sorts and also as dormitories for



L.H. Brown

pupils. In front of the building is a tower surmounted by a cross, from the top of which to the ground is a distance of eighty feet.

The academy was built at a cost of twenty-five thousand dollars and presents a handsome and imposing appearance and will be an enduring monument to the courage and persistent energy of Rev. Father Lawrence H. Burns and to the self-sacrificing devotion of the many members of the parish who contributed so liberally towards the funds which made it possible.

The Sacred Heart Academy enjoys a wide reputation and students are enrolled from various sections of the United States. The curriculum qualifies a graduate to enter the freshman class of the state university. The sisters who constitute the teaching force are exceptionally well versed in their respective branches and the whole community has been elevated by the influence of the institution.

REV. FATHER LAWRENCE H. BURNS.

Rev. Father Lawrence H. Burns, pastor of the Church of the Sacred Heart and at the head of the Sacred Heart Academy, is a man of well-deserved consequence in the community, whose respect he enjoys not only as an ecclesiastic of fine parts, but also as a man of broad views and common sense. Father Burns was born in county Tipperary, Ireland, in 1847, his parents being John and Mary (Ryan) Burns. They were married in their native country and there their children were born. In 1862 they decided to seek the greater opportunity offered by the new world and accordingly set sail, locating soon after their arrival in Philadelphia. The parents made the Quaker City their home for the rest of their lives, and not only they, but their children, with the exception of Father Burns, have ever since resided there.

Father Burns acquired his early education in the public schools of Ireland and soon after arriving in America he became enrolled among the students in St. Charles Academy, situated about fifteen miles from Baltimore, Maryland. After four years attendance there he was sent to Allegany, Cattaraugus county, New York, where he entered an ecclesiastical seminary. He was graduated from this institution and in 1878 was ordained to the Catholic priesthood. His first charge was Key West, Iowa, to which he was sent almost immediately after receiving orders. His ministry was of two years duration there and he was then transferred to West Union, Fayette county, Iowa, where he remained

for four years and a half, those in authority sending him at the end of this time to Ackley, Iowa, where his pastorate lasted three years.

The ministry of Father Burns in Rockwell began in October, 1887, and the succeeding years have witnessed great advance in the growth of church and academy. When he arrived the church building was a small frame edifice forty-five by thirty feet, and he added forty-five feet to its length, with the intention of making a school room out of it. By the year 1890 he had been successful in the realization of his ambition to have a new church, which was a substantial affair of veneered brick. Unfortunately, however, this building was not long to endure, for in 1905 it was visited by a conflagration. In 1907 a beautiful new church was built to take its place, this being superior in many respects to its predecessor. The parochial residence, a comfortable and commodious house where many members of the Catholic clergy have found shelter and entertainment, has been built since Father Burns' arrival. He is essentially a builder, the Academy of the Sacred Heart having been erected in 1900. It is one of the largest parochial school buildings in this part of Iowa. It is one hundred and ten feet long and sixty feet wide, has a basement and is three stories above ground. The attendance at Sacred Heart Academy is not restricted to the youth in this part of Iowa, for there are pupils enrolled from various parts of the United States. The Dominican Sisters or Sisters of the Order of St. Dominic have charge of the school.

THEODORE B. MORSE.

One of the most extensive farmers of Falls township, Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, is T. B. Morse, who has conducted a farm on his own account since he was twenty years old. He was born on the farm in section 21 which he now owns, June 8, 1868, son of George O. and Eliza A. (Williams) Morse. The father was born in Pittstown, Rensselaer county, New York, November 24, 1826, and died May 17, 1904, and the mother, who was born in Saratoga county, New York, died October 10, 1906, at the age of seventy-four years. They were parents of five children, of whom three are living, namely: Fred, of St. Paul; Theodore B.; and Oscar, of Rock Falls, Iowa.

George O. Morse was reared on a farm, being a farmer's son, and received a fair education. He began to earn his own way in the world at the age of sixteen years and began working on a farm

for five dollars and fifty cents a month. In 1855 he emigrated to the west, with a view to establishing himself for life. He entered land in sections 26 and 27, Falls township, Cerro Gordo county, remained one night with Elijah Wiltfong, the first settler at Rock Falls, and, after securing the entry of his land, went to Illinois and rented land. He purchased a large flock of sheep and carried on farming there until 1860, when he returned to Iowa and settled on his land. He erected a log house and occupied it the first two years, then bought a farm from Elijah Wiltfong on section 21 of the same township, to which he transferred his residence. He erected a second log house on the place in 1865 and lived in it until 1871, then built a comfortable frame house. He became one of the largest land holders in the township, having at one time eight hundred acres.

In 1858 George O. Morse was married and he and his wife spent their life farming until 1885, when they retired from the farm to live in Rock Falls. They came back to the farm in 1891, but a few years later returned to Rock Falls, where Mr. Morse died. He was active in public affairs and held various township offices. He and his wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal church for many years.

The boyhood of Theodore B. Morse was passed where he now lives. He attended the public school and spent a short time at school in Osage, Iowa. He early began to farm on his own account and has shown ability of a high order in carrying on his farm. He now owns three hundred and eighty-five acres and has his land well improved. For a number of years he has been extensively engaged in raising horses and keeps from forty to fifty Percheron and Norman horses on his farm all the time, being a firm believer in the policy of keeping high grade stock. In politics he is a Prohibitionist. He and his wife are members of the Methodist church and are interested in every good cause. Mr. Morse represents the best interests of his community and is regarded with esteem by all.

On March 16, 1905, Mr. Morse married Elizabeth L. Hill, who was born in Rensselaer county, New York, September 7, 1870. They have one daughter, Elizabeth M., and had one son who is deceased.

WILLIAM S. WILCOX.

One of the progressive captains of industry in Cerro Gordo county is William S. Wilcox, who is vice-president of the E. B.

Higley Company of Mason City, one of the important concerns of the city and one that furnishes the best of facilities and service through its functions in the conducting of a modernly equipped creamery and cold storage plant and the handling of butter, eggs and poultry, as well as in the manufacturing of Higley's "Luxus" ice cream. Mr. Wilcox has been a resident of Mason City the greater portion of the time since 1893, and his entire career in a business way has been one of close identification with the produce trade and allied enterprises. In the year following his arrival in Mason City he connected himself with the company of which he is now an executive officer and in the promotion of whose business he has given most effective aid, as an able executive and as a man of progressive ideas and policies. The business of the E. B. Higley Company dates its inception back to the year 1880 and Edward B. Higley has been identified with the enterprise from the time of its foundation. Upon the incorporation of the company in 1901 he became its president and he is still incumbent of this office, being recognized as one of the substantial business men of Cerro Gordo county and having ever held a secure place in the esteem of the community. As already noted Mr. Wilcox is vice-president of the company and the secretary and treasurer is Cornelius O'Keefe. As may be naturally supposed the enterprise was one of modest order in its incipient stages but with the passing of years the reliable and excellent management brought to bear in the connection have been potent in the development of a splendid industrial and commercial enterprise and one that contributes materially to the prestige of the city in which its headquarters are maintained. In the earlier years a specialty was made of handling large amounts of dairy butter produced in the northwest and finally was instituted the manufacturing of creamery butter. This department of the business has expanded to wide scope and importance and has necessitated enlargement of the plant from time to time with the final addition of a large cold-storage building and another building which is utilized for the egg and poultry department. Branches are maintained at various points in northern Iowa and several buyers are engaged in traveling through Iowa and the surrounding states. The plant at Mason City affords employment to about thirty men.

William S. Wilcox is thus to be recognized in this publication as one of the essentially representative business men in Cerro Gordo county. He was born at Freeport, Illinois, on the 9th of January, 1873, and is a son of William and Barbara (Alward) Wilcox, both of whom were born in the state of New York. His

father died when the son was a child and when the latter was but four years of age, in 1877, his mother removed to Floyd county, Iowa. In this section of the state Mr. Wilcox received a good education in the public schools and he has been dependent upon his own resources since early youth, thus being the more worthy of honor and credit for the splendid success he has achieved through his earnest endeavors. Prior to initiating his independent business career he completed a course in a business college in Mason City. For some time after identifying himself with the business with which he is now connected as an officer, he had charge of branch houses for the original firm and finally he assumed general supervision of the fifteen branch establishments, with headquarters at Emmetsburg for about three years, since which time he has been actively concerned in the administration of the affairs of the concern at its headquarters in Mason City. It has been found expedient to reduce the number of branch establishments and the business is now conducted largely through the main headquarters in Mason City.

In politics Mr. Wilcox is a stanch adherent of the Republican party and in the spring of 1909 he was elected to represent the second ward in the city board of aldermen, where he is proving a most valued and loyal supporter of good municipal government and stands exponent of the most progressive civic policies. Mr. Wilcox is affiliated with Cerro Gordo Lodge, No. 70, Knights of Pythias, of which he was Chancellor Commander for two terms, and he is also a member of the Masonic Orders. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and its official board and is an active and popular figure in both business and social circles in his home city.

JOHN FROMM.

John Fromm, one of the most extensive farmers and stock raisers of Lime Creek township, Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, was born in Mecklenburg, Germany, January 27, 1847, a son of John and Hannah (Kludt) Fromm. John Fromm Sr. was born in 1816 and died in 1892, and his wife, who was born in 1818, died in 1901. They were parents of seven children, all of whom survive, namely: Sophia, wife of John Nieman, of Wisconsin; John; Charles, of Lime Creek township; Henry, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and Fred, William and Andrew, all of Wisconsin. Mr. Fromm and his family left Germany in the fall of 1851, and after a voyage of seven weeks landed at New York. They proceeded at

once to Milwaukee, and a week later located in Washington county, Wisconsin, where he purchased timber land and began clearing a place to erect a house and cultivate a farm, where he remained until his death. In his native country he had been a shepherd.

At the time his parents located in the wilds of Wisconsin John Fromm Jr. was but four years old. He was reared on a farm and received but a limited education. He ran away from home and enlisted, January 4, 1865, in Company K, Fourteenth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. He served until the end of the war, then returned home and remained there until the fall of 1870, when he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Cerro Gordo county, a part of his present farm. There were but forty acres of this under cultivation, and at first Mr. Fromm worked for others. He erected a small house twelve by sixteen feet, where he lived alone until his marriage. He now owns two hundred and forty acres of well improved land, on which he has made all possible improvements and has planted trees. He is one of the most successful and enterprising farmers of that region and stands high in the community. He served as school officer and road superintendent and in politics is independent. He is public spirited and actively interested in local affairs and has always contributed his share to the progress and welfare of the community.

Mr. Fromm married, December 25, 1876, Anna Kinney, born in Warren county, New Jersey, July 2, 1860, daughter of John and Aurora (Butze) Kinney, the former a native of Pike county, Pennsylvania, born August 2, 1829, and the mother, also born in Pike county, October 22, 1829. They now live in Mason City, Iowa. They were parents of six children, of whom the following five survive: Charles, of Mason City; Sarah, widow of Harding Hart, of Plymouth, Iowa; John, of Spirit Lake, Iowa; Mrs. Fromm; and Elizabeth, wife of John Stanton, of Mason City. Mr. and Mrs. Kinney moved to Cerro Gordo county in September, 1866, and located near Rock Falls, where they purchased a farm. Later they moved to Worth county, Iowa, and for the last few years have lived with their children.

Eight children blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Fromm, of whom seven survive, namely: Aurora, wife of Delbert Pryor, of Minnesota; Kate, at home; Clara, wife of John Harry, of Plymouth, Iowa; May, wife of Robert McClintock, of Mason City; Bertha, Charles and John, at home; Elizabeth, deceased.



J. H. Brown

JAMES H. BROWN.

It would be difficult to think of any citizen in the locality whose loss would be more severely felt and more sincerely regretted than that of James H. Brown, whose death occurred April 5, 1910, at his home in Bath township, one mile north of Rockwell, following a one week's illness with pneumonia and heart trouble. He was a man of varied ability; a stock-raiser and agriculturist of the most scientific and advanced methods; a man of marked political influence; and associated in some high capacity with most of the important organizations of town and county, as well as state. He valued the best interests of the whole community above those of the individual, giving most generously of time and energy to the public service, and he is mourned by hosts of friends. Truly,

"To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die."

James H. Brown was born in Boone county, Illinois, July 9, 1855, his parents being David and Agness (Hamilton) Brown. He was of Scotch descent and as one of his biographers adds, "Of Scotch thrift and of Scotch integrity." Soon after the attainment of his majority he went to Winnebago county, Illinois, where he engaged in farming and from there removed to Bath township, Cerro Gordo county, where he ever afterward made his home. He had all of the secrets of successful farming at his finger tips and at the time of his death was the owner of five hundred acres, all highly improved and highly productive. He was associated with numerous enterprises, being at the time of his death chairman of the board of supervisors of Cerro Gordo county; president of the Farmers' Cooperative Brick & Tile Company at Mason City; president of the Rockwell Farmers' Cooperative Society; president of Rockwell Farmers' Telephone Company; president of the State Farmers' Cooperative Grain Dealers Association; president of the Cerro Gordo Mutual Insurance Association; and director of the Farmers' State Bank of Rockwell. For twelve years he was president of the Rockwell Farmers' Cooperative Society and assisted in the organization of the state association; was president of the Farmers' State Cooperative Mutual Elevator Insurance Company, and was a director and stockholder in the Peoples' State Bank of Mason City.

Mr. Brown was united in marriage to Miss Janet McMillan, their union being celebrated at Mason City, Iowa, April 18, 1884. Besides his widow he is survived by one son and four daughters, by name, Howard, Maud, Agnes, Eppie and Merval, at home. He is also survived by his aged mother, Mrs. David Brown, by five

brothers, John, William, Hugh, Edward and Robert, and two sisters, Mrs. Charles Brown and Mrs. Robert Colville, all living at the old home in Illinois. He was an excellent husband and father, his home life being ideal.

Mr. Brown was a stanch and enthusiastic Republican and was eminently well fitted for the political field. Six years ago he was nominated for supervisor without opposition, twice thereafter re-nominated and at the time of his death was chairman of the board. The social and fraternal side of his nature was well developed and he took great enjoyment in his associations in this line, having membership in Fraternity Lodge No. 344, I. O. O. F., of Rockwell.

The funeral of Mr. Brown was held in the Congregational church, Rev. L. D. Blanford conducting the services and preaching the sermon. There was a very large attendance, friends having come from every part of the county and from the farthest corners of the state. There were many magnificent floral offerings. The county officials attended the funeral in a body, as did the officials of the Farmers' Society, the Brick & Tile Company and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the latter conducting the services at the grave. Some of Rockwell's most prominent citizens acted as pall bearers. As a mark of respect the business houses closed during the funeral hour.

To quote from the Rockwell *Phonograph*, which has given an adequate account of his life and services, "As one of the pioneers of Bath township James H. Brown has been identified with its material improvements, its educational interests and its political history. No man in Bath township has ever contributed more to its history and its upbuilding, has had a firmer hold upon the hearts of its people, or will be more sadly missed from all its councils than James H. Brown. * * In all the positions of trust and honor Mr. Brown's sole aim seemed to be to 'make good' and hundreds of friends today mourn his untimely departure from the sphere of earthly activities."

Mrs. Brown is a native of Boone county, Illinois, born April 5, 1860, to Neil and Margarettie (McArthur) McMillan, both natives of Scotland. They came to America as young man and woman and married in the United States. The mother died in Illinois when Mrs. Brown was young and the father came to Cerro Gordo county in 1879 with our subject where he was farming. Here his death occurred, at sixty-eight years of age. He was a Republican in politics. Mrs. Brown was reared and educated in Boone county, and since her husband's death she has rented the most of her farm.

HERBERT E. PALMETER.

A man of considerable importance in the manifold affairs of Clear Lake is H. E. Palmeter, cashier of the Cerro Gordo State Bank. He has owned this bank since 1892 and particular credit is due to him for his success, for he is essentially a self-made man. It was his good fortune, however, to be the son of a father whose ideals were high and who gained the respect of any community in which he resided. Mr. Palmeter was born in Chautauqua county, New York, May 21, 1849, his parents being Theron and Ulrica (Bentley) Palmeter. The Palmeter's residence in this part of New York dated almost from the first of the nineteenth century, the father's birth having occurred there March 31, 1817. He lived to a great age, his death taking place on January 20, 1910, while he was visiting in Sioux City, Iowa. The father came west to Illinois in 1856 and lived in Ogle and McHenry counties until 1863, in which year he came to Cerro Gordo county and located in Lake township, where he purchased land. He was a man of admirable character, a deep reader and always deeply interested in all matters of public importance and remarkably active and virile almost to the time of his death. In the early days he served on the county board of supervisors. He was a radical temperance man and from boyhood an earnest member of the Congregational church. His wife died in 1887. There were three children: D. H. Palmeter, of Clear Lake, of whom mention is made on other pages of this volume; Mr. Palmeter of this review; and Mary, wife of E. I. McGraw, of Sioux City, Iowa.

Mr. Palmeter's boyhood days were spent upon his father's farm in New York state and his education was obtained in the schools afforded by the district. In 1863, after a few years' residence in Illinois, the family came on to Cerro Gordo county, and he came with them and for some time devoted his energies to clearing the large tract of new land which his father had bought. In 1874 he and his brother, D. H. Palmeter, purchased a hardware store in Clear Lake from J. H. Sweney, which they continue to own and manage to the present day. It was in 1887 that H. E. Palmeter became connected with the banking business. The bank of which he is now cashier was first organized in 1885 by Bush and Hurn. It was a private bank and was known as the Cerro Gordo County Bank. In 1892 it was purchased by Mr. Palmeter and others, reorganized with a capital of twenty-five thousand dollars, and given its present name of the Cerro Gordo State Bank. His start in the banking business was made almost without capital and

his substantial success is an eloquent comment on his ability. Mr. Palmeter was elected councilman of Clear Lake in 1876, and since then he has served continuously with the exception of two years. In his fraternal associations he is connected with the Masonic order and the Knights of Pythias.

Mr. Palmeter was married March 10, 1874, to Miss Emily Fletcher, who was born December 5, 1851, in Rock county, Wisconsin. This union was blessed by the birth of two children, John F., of Spokane, Washington, and Lora, wife of Willis T. Carpenter, of East Orange, New Jersey. The wife's death occurred May 22, 1882. On January 9, 1884, Mr. Palmeter was a second time married, the lady to become his wife being Miss Janetta Coleman, born in Lexington, Michigan, September 25, 1861. Her parents were Charles and Rosabelle (Dimond) Coleman, the father a native of Canada, the mother of Vermont. The father came to Michigan as a young man and married. In 1862 he enlisted in the Sixth Michigan Cavalry and in April, 1863, was wounded and taken prisoner at Trevillion Station, Virginia, that being the last that was ever heard of him. At the close of the war the widow and her young daughter removed to Arcola, Douglas county, Illinois, and in 1882 took up their residence in Clear Lake. Here the mother's death occurred in December, 1896, her age being fifty-seven years. Mr. Palmeter has had two children by his second marriage, these being Charles C. and Cecil, both of whom are at home.

CLARENCE H. BURNHAM.

For a period of forty years has the honored subject of this review been connected with the business of the L. A. Page Lumber Company, of Mason City, representing the most important enterprise of its kind in Cerro Gordo county. The business of the Wilson Lumber Company was purchased by L. A. Page about the year 1870, and from the initiation of the new regime to the present time Mr. Burnham has been connected with the enterprise. He is a skilled artisan as a carpenter and this fact has contributed materially to his success in his present position, as he is an able judge of the qualities and values of the various grades of lumber, with thorough knowledge of the quantity of stock required in connection with all kinds of building operations, so that he has been able to give to the many patrons of his company the most effective service. He has been a resident of Cerro Gordo county since 1867, and here followed the work of his trade until his

assumption of his present position. The L. A. Page Lumber Company has large and well equipped yards and warehouses and handles all kinds of lumber and builders' supplies with the exception of hardware.

Mr. Burnham finds satisfaction in adverting to the old Empire state of the Union as the place of his nativity, as well as to the fact that he is a member of one of the honored pioneer families of Iowa. The family lineage is traced back to stanch English stock and the name has been identified with the annals of American history from the pre-Revolutionary epoch. Mr. Burnham was born at Ticonderoga, New York, on the 24th of September, 1852, and the house in which he "first op'ed wondering eyes" stood not far distant from the walls of historic old Fort Ticonderoga. He is a son of Rev. J. D. and Clara (Spink) Burnham, both of whom were likewise natives of the state of New York. The father was one of the pioneer clergymen of the Methodist Episcopal church in Iowa, and prior to coming to this state he had labored zealously as a circuit-rider in New York state, where his service was principally as a member of the Troy conference. In 1867 he came with his family to Iowa and here he continued in the active work of his high calling, a worthy servant in the vineyard of the divine Master, until the close of his life. He had pastoral charges at Clear Lake and other points in the state and was unremitting in his ministrations to the pioneers in the widely separated settlements. He died at Plymouth, Cerro Gordo county, in the late '80s, at the age of about sixty-six years, and his loved and devoted wife preceded him to eternal rest by about three years. At the time when Rev. J. D. Burnham came to Cerro Gordo county the site of Mason City was practically unbroken prairie, and at one time he owned one hundred and sixty acres of land, all of which is included within the present city limits—property lying east of Main street and south of Fourth street and now very valuable. Rev. J. D. Burnham was a man of strong intellectuality and fervid zeal and consecration in his chosen work, and his name merits a place of prominence on the roll of the honored pioneers of the Hawkeye state. Of the six children only three are now living, Clarence H., who is the immediate subject of this sketch; Mary E., who is the wife of Leroy A. Page and resides in Mason City; and Anna A., who is the wife of John H. Wolfe, of Kimball, South Dakota.

Clarence H. Burnham gained his early educational discipline in the public schools of the state of New York and was about fifteen years of age at the time of the family removal to Iowa, where he

continued to attend school for a time and where also he served his apprenticeship to the carpenter's trade, to which he gave his attention until he became associated with his brother-in-law, Mr. Page, in the latter's lumber business, concerning which adequate mention is made in the opening paragraph of this article. Mr. Burnham has not hedged himself in with the affairs of business but has stood exponent of civic loyalty and public spirit. His political allegiance has ever been given to the Republican party and he is now representing the Fourth ward as a member of the board of aldermen of Mason City, an office to which he was elected in the spring of 1909 for a term of two years. He and his wife are zealous members of the First Methodist Episcopal church of Mason City, in which he is incumbent of the office of steward and he is affiliated with Mason City Lodge, No. 224, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, with whose adjunct organization, Queen Lodge, Daughters of Rebekah, his wife is actively identified.

When about twenty-one years of age Mr. Burnham married Miss Ida L Colby, a native of Canada, where she was reared and her death occurred in Mason City, Iowa, at about thirty years of age. She left two children, LeRoy D., merchant at Portland, this county, and Harvey C., agent for the Great Western Railroad Company.

At Charles City, Iowa, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Burnham to Miss Charlotte M. Berlin, who was born in New York city and who is a daughter of Christian L. and Sofia Berlin, who settled in Cerro Gordo county in the pioneer days. The father now resides at Rock Falls, but the mother died in 1909. Mr. Berlin was long numbered among the successful farmers of this county and is now living virtually retired, being still vigorous in mind and body, though he has passed the psalmist's span of three score years and ten. Mr. and Mrs. Burnham became the parents of one child Dwellee L., who graduated in the Mason City high school as a member of the class of 1910 and is now attending college at Ames, where he is taking up a course of civil engineering. He is one of the popular young men of his native city.

DWIGHT H. PALMETER.

Upon the roll of substantial and representative citizens of Clear Lake may well be inscribed the name of Dwight H. Palmeter, senior member of the Palmeter Hardware Company, which is the oldest business existing in Clear Lake today. It has a capital stock of twelve thousand dollars and comprises everything neces-

sary to complete a first class store of its kind, the Palmeter brothers being thoroughly progressive in their ideas. They are also large land holders, owning four hundred and forty choice acres of land in Lake township.

Dwight H. Palmeter was born in Chautauqua county, New York, June 21, 1845. He is the son of Theron and Ulriea (Bentley) Palmeter. The father, who was a man of strong character and a successful farmer, was a native of Chautauqua county, New York, his birth having occurred there March 31, 1817. It was his lot to almost complete the century, his death taking place January 20, 1910, while on a visit at Sioux City, Iowa. Mr. Palmeter spent his boyhood and young manhood upon his fathers' farm and received but little schooling after the twelfth year of his age. Realizing the fuller opportunities of the newly opened west, the family decided to come to Iowa, young Dwight coming in February, 1863, ahead of the rest, who followed in June of the same year. The father purchased four hundred and eighty acres of raw land, and he and his sons at once set to work to improve it. They were successful and in the course of a few years Mr. Palmeter had accumulated a snug little capital. In 1875 he decided upon a radical change and came to Clear Lake, where he engaged for eight months in the drug business. He sold this and he and his brother in 1876 bought out a hardware house, and several years afterward, when the brother, H. E., entered the bank, Dwight H. assumed the management. His brother's attention has since been devoted to the Cerro Gordo State Bank, of which he is cashier. Mr. Palmeter's management of the Palmeter Hardware Company is thus of nearly thirty-five years duration.

He has always played a prominent part in the civic life of Clear Lake and in the affairs of the county. He served on the school board for twelve years, held the office of county supervisor for three years, and before his removal to Clear Lake was clerk of Lake township. He assisted in the organization of the Clear Lake Independent Telephone Company, of which he is now president. He has given a life-long allegiance to the Republican party and gives an intelligent attention to all affairs of a public nature. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias and his wife of the Congregational church.

Mr. Palmeter married, October 7, 1875, Miss Ada S. Armstrong, who was born at Potosi, Wisconsin, April 15, 1849. They are the parents of four children as follows: Roy A., of Fessenden, South Dakota; Mand, wife of W. W. Choate, of Clear Lake; and Gladys and Paul at home.

CLARK W. HARRIS.

Clark W. Harris, a pioneer merchant of Rockwell, is one of the most prominent and best known citizens of the community. Reserved and modest personally, he has, nevertheless, always played a leading role in its life, and he assisted in organizing Dougherty township in Cerro Gordo county and acted as secretary of the meeting. He has been twelve years mayor, nearly thirty years a justice of the peace, and is conducting one of the largest and most up-to-date business houses in the town. He was born in the province of Toronto (then known as Canada West), December 9, 1846. His father, Thomas H. Harris, was born in Maine and died in Mason City, Iowa, October 9, 1902, being about eighty-eight years of age at the time of his death. Ohio was the birth-place of the mother, whose maiden name was Matilda Waggoner. She died in Wyoming, Iowa, in June, 1867. Soon after their marriage in the Buckeye state they bought land in the province of Toronto and there made their home for the following fourteen years. They then sold out and went to Three Rivers, Michigan, where for three years the father ran a grist mill. Their next step was to go to Schoolcraft, Michigan, where Thomas Harris took up farming. About this time the Civil war cloud broke and he enlisted and was sent to various posts, among them St. Louis and Lookout Mountain. He returned to Schoolcraft, where he remained for a year, then taking his family to Wyoming, Iowa, where he engaged in farming. In 1870 he came to Dougherty township, Cerro Gordo county, where he bought wild land and improved it, and he assisted in the organization of the township. Later he went to Sheffield and devoted his energies to the restaurant business. His last years were spent in Mason City, where as previously mentioned his death occurred. Mr. Harris was the third of eight children, of whom four are living. The father was a Republican, served as trustee of Dougherty township, and was once a candidate for sheriff, coming within a few votes of being nominated. He and his wife were Free Will Baptists in Canada, but while in Michigan affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal church and at Mason City belonged to the Christian church.

Mr. Harris enjoyed a good education, attending the common schools in the localities in which he happened to be staying. He attended a private school at Hazel Knoll conducted by a retired Methodist minister and his family, and was then a pupil in the high school at Anamosa in Jones county. In his boyhood Mr. Harris learned the carpenter's trade from his father and in his

young manhood engaged in contracting and building in Cerro Gordo county. He abandoned this to take up the furniture business at Rockwell in 1877, having previously for several years made his home in this town. He began in a small way, but today carries a much larger stock than is usually carried in a town of this size. He has taken up the undertaking business in conjunction and has no competitor in the town. He has the distinction of being Rockwell's pioneer merchant, having been longer in the same line of business than any other man in Rockwell. He has held various public offices, having served as a member of the school board, as mayor for twelve years, and as justice of the peace for twenty-eight. He was a candidate for nomination for representative, but was defeated by John S. Stanbery in the convention by a fraction. He was one of the organizers of the city of Rockwell. He is an Odd Fellow and has many times filled the several chairs of the order. He is a Republican and he and his wife are communicants of the Methodist church.

Mr. Harris was married November 21, 1876, at the home of the bride's parents in Geneseo township, the bride's uncle, Rev. G. C. Lyman, officiating, to Miss Mary E. Lyman, born in Wyoming county, Pennsylvania, July 6, 1856, a daughter of George E. and Sara E. Lyman, both natives of Pennsylvania and now residents of Rockwell, of whom mention is made on other pages of this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Harris are the parents of three children: Mandie L., is at home; Ada E., is the wife of Frederick A. Green, of Seattle, Washington, and the mother of two children; and George Lyman is at home. Both of the daughters are graduates of Mt. Vernon College and the elder daughter was a teacher of English in the Hampton School in the year 1909.

SAMUEL J. CLAUSEN.

Progressive, energetic, and public spirited, there are few if any who play a more vital role in the affairs of the municipality than Samuel J. Clausen, grain and coal dealer of Clear Lake and former mayor of the place. Absolutely by his own efforts he has established himself securely, building up a fine business and enjoying the consideration of the community. He was born on the Isle of Fano off the coast of Denmark, August 22, 1852, and the record of his earlier years has many of the elements of romance. He is a son of J. P. and Dorothea (Gregersen) Clausen, and one of nine children, six of whom are living. They are Mrs. Karen Nelsen, of Denmark; Henry, living in Wisconsin; Jens J., a citizen

of Denmark; Mr. Clausen and his twin brother, Peter J., who resides in Germany, and Mrs. Maria Martinsen of Wisconsin. When Mr. Clausen was fourteen years of age he left the parental roof and went to sea as a cabin boy, following that calling for the next seven years. The first two years were spent on the Baltic and North Seas and after that he was on the greater oceans. Three times he doubled Cape Horn and once Cape of Good Hope. When the seven years were up he returned home, where he remained a few months. In 1874 he and a friend left for America, with the intention of finding employment on the boats plying the Great Lakes. When Mr. Clausen arrived in New York he found himself without a penny and was under the necessity of borrowing twenty dollars from his companion. He suddenly changed his mind and decided to join the ranks of the "land lubbers." He purchased a ticket to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he remained about one month, then going to Fox Lake, that state, where he found work with his brother Henry, who was engaged in the grain business. Two years later the brothers went into partnership, and in 1882, having been successful, they concluded to broaden out and Mr. Clausen purchased from H. M. Messer the Clear Lake elevator. In 1893 they dissolved partnership, Mr. Clausen retaining the Clear Lake business. The present buildings were erected by him, the elevator having a capacity of 25,000 bushels. On an average of 100,000 bushels of grain are handled a year, not to mention quantities of coal, feed and seeds. During his business career Mr. Clausen has bought out five competitors, who have started up at different times. He also owns an elevator on the Mason City and Clear Lake Electric Road.

Mr. Clausen has served in several of the most important offices in the bestowal of the people of the community. He served on the council nine years, on the school board for twelve and was mayor of Clear Lake for two years. He was one of the organizers of the Cerro Gordo State Bank in 1892, has been a director since that time and vice president since 1906. He owns two hundred and thirty acres in Clear Lake township on the lake shore, which he has nicely improved and he has bought and sold numerous other farms and town property. He is interested in the Western Lakes Resort and since 1893 has been secretary of the organization which controls it. When the Clear Lake Congregational church was erected at Clear Lake he was one of a committee of three in whose hands lay the responsibility. Mr. Clausen and John Holversen built the Clear Lake opera house in 1890, but the former afterward

sold his interest in the same. The first strictly modern dwelling in Clear Lake was built by this enterprising gentleman in 1891.

In his political conviction Mr. Clausen was formerly a staunch Democrat but is now independent, believing in the infallibility of neither party. He belongs to Verity Lodge, No. 250, A. F. & A. M., and also to Chivalrie Lodge, No. 82, Knights of Pythias.

On August 11, 1879, at Madison, Wisconsin, Mr. Clausen was united in marriage to Miss Carrie W. Suckow, who was born in Pennsylvania, November 24, 1853. Five children are growing up beneath their roof, Dora E., Henry W., Bertle J., Samuel J., Jr., in the School of Mines in Golden, Colorado, and C. Louise, attending the state university at Madison, Wisconsin.

ZENAS C. BURDICK.

There are few among Cerro Gordo county's Civil war veterans who have had a more interesting military record, whose reminiscences of the days of the saving of the union are more thrilling, and whose patriotism shines more brightly than Zenas C. Burdick, now living in retirement in Rockwell. Mr. Burdick was born in Erie county, New York, December 17, 1836. His father, Harris C. Burdick, was born in New York in 1811, and died in Grand Junction, Green county, Iowa, April 1, 1897. The mother, Sally Churchill Burdick, was born in 1810 in the Isle of Mott, Vermont, and died in Boone county, Iowa, four or five years previous to the death of her husband. Two years after the birth of Zenas C. Burdick his parents moved to Dekalb county, Illinois, where the father practiced medicine. This state was the home of the family for many years, it being in the eighties that the father and mother came to Grand Junetion, Iowa, the father's demise occurring in that place.

Mr. Burdick was educated in the common schools of Illinois and for two years after his marriage in 1860 made his livelihood by farming. On August 12, 1862, he enlisted in Company G, of the One Hundred and Sixteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, being mustered in as a sergeant September 6, 1862. Soon the regiment was sent to Memphis, Tennessee, and put into Sherman's Division, later becoming a part of the First Brigade, Second Division of the Fifteenth Army Corps. It was Mr. Burdick's lot to see very active service and to be in some of the most decisive conflicts. He took part in numerous engagements, such as Black Bayou, Mississippi, and Arkansas Post, Arkansas, (where more prisoners were captured than had been taken up to that time). Sergeant Burdick was for a time detached from the regiment and put on special duty

in the quartermaster's department at Young's Point, Louisiana. On July 1, 1863, he rejoined the regiment, which was taking part in the siege of Vicksburg. Subsequently the regiment was engaged in the Atlanta campaign and accompanied Sherman on his march to the sea. It saw action at Fort McAllister, Georgia, and was later conveyed by boat from Savannah to Hatteras Inlet, South Carolina. Then followed the battles of Pocotaligo, South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina, and Bentonville, North Carolina. The regiment was sent from the latter town to Raleigh, North Carolina, where they were located at the time of the surrender of Lee. It marched to Washington, D. C., and took part in the grand review, being mustered out in the national capitol June 7, 1865, and paid off at Springfield, Illinois, being discharged on the 28th of the month. The One Hundred and Sixteenth was engaged in a number of skirmishes and minor engagements not mentioned.

After the war Mr. Burdick returned to Dekalb, Illinois, and in 1872 he removed to Clinton, Iowa, where he worked in a saw mill for twelve or thirteen years. His next place of residence was in Story county, Iowa, where he engaged in agriculture for a time. Returning to Clinton he made his residence in that place for the next four years and then came back to Story county, where the Story City branch of the Iowa Central Railway was being constructed to Zearing, Iowa. He spent part of his time meanwhile working in Marshalltown, Iowa. He was assistant superintendent of the building of the Soldiers Home at Marshalltown, and had the honor of raising the first flag over that institution. It was on Easter Sunday, 1900, that Mr. Burdick took up his residence in Rockwell, he having come to take charge of his daughter's farm for the summer. At the present time, on account of poor eyesight, he has practically retired from labor, although he devotes considerable attention to his garden and to the raising of chickens.

Mr. Burdick was married September 1, 1900, to Mrs. Emma Dickson, widow of Robert H. Dickson, a native of Pennsylvania, who came to Cerro Gordo county in 1854 and in 1856 took up government land in Bath township. Mrs. Burdick was born in Potter county, Pennsylvania, and in 1874 came to Iowa with her parents, Joseph and Phoebe (Loneks) Smith. In the home state the father had been a miller, but followed farming after coming to Cerro Gordo county. The father was born September 1, 1810, and died February 7, 1890, and the mother was born March 30, 1826, and died January 19, 1909, the demise of both taking place at Rockwell. Mrs. Burdick is the mother of four children by



A. A. Crossley

her first marriage, and of these two are living, Benjamin R. Dickson of Waterloo, and Olive May Dickson who makes her home with her mother. Mr. Burdick was previously married, November 11, 1860, and of the ten children of this union four survive. Cora Electa is the wife of Osear Lundin, of Marshalltown, Iowa; Harris E., is a resident of Chicago; Leona May is the wife of Chauncey B. Gustafson of Rose Creek, Minnesota; Zenas Elza lives in Dekalb, Illinois.

Zenas C. Burdick is a Republican and very active in politics. In Story county he served for several years as justice of the peace. He is an enthusiastic Grand Army man and has every reason to be proud of his military record. He is at present commander of Atlanta Post, No. 389 at Rockwell. He is also affiliated with the I. O. O. F. Mr. Burdick is a member of the Christian church and his wife of the Congregational.

AMASA A. CROSSLEY.

A man of intelligence and ability, Amasa A. Crossley, of Mason City, has always been the encourager and supporter of everything calculated to advance the welfare of his community, intellectually, socially and morally, and is held in high respect as a man and as a citizen. A son of A. A. Crossley, he was born January 29, 1848, in Crawford county, Pennsylvania. His father died four months previous to that event, in September, 1847, at the age of twenty-two years. Mr. Crossley's mother, whose maiden name was Delila Curtis, married for her second husband Ansel Harron, and in 1855 the family came westward to Wisconsin, where they lived three years. Coming to Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, in 1868, Mr. Harron bought wild land in Lime Creek township, and on the farm which he improved both he and his wife spent their remaining days, Mrs. Harron passing away in November, 1887, at the age of sixty-five years, while Mr. Harron died in 1895, aged eighty-three years. By her second marriage Mrs. Harron had three children, as follows: Fred, living in Washington; L. C., of North Dakota; and Minnie, wife of Willard Pense, of Minnesota.

The only child of his parents, Amasa A. Crossley was reared to agricultural pursuits, after the age of eight years attending school but two terms. At the age of twelve years he was forced to shift for himself, being sent out to work among strangers. Becoming skilled in the various branches of agriculture, he began farming on his own account after his marriage, renting land in

Olmstead county, Minnesota, for four years. Settling then in Lyon county, Minnesota, he took up a claim, but after battling with the grasshoppers for four years he gave up in despair and in the fall of 1876 came to Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, in search of a favorable location. Mr. Crossley here bought one hundred and sixty acres of land in section one, Bath township, a part of the land being broken but no further improvements on it. After carrying on general farming there for seven years he rented his property and took up his residence in Mason City, where he dealt extensively and profitably in live stock until 1898. Since that time Mr. Crossley has been actively interested in the real estate and insurance business. A man of good business judgment, he has been uniformly successful in his operations, and is quite an extensive landholder, owning three hundred and twenty acres of land in Bath township and three hundred and twenty acres in Mason township.

Taking a warm interest in local affairs, Mr. Crossley was elected county supervisor in 1900, and served in that capacity seven years, during which time much money was wisely expended. The present county court house and county jail was erected at that time, with a record of expenditure probably unequaled, as under the direct supervision of Mr. Crossley ten thousand dollars less than the appropriation was expended on the two buildings, and not one dollar was given for extras in either. The concrete bridge on East State street was also built under his supervision, it being the third bridge of its kind erected in Iowa, Mr. Crossley having been the first to advocate the use of that material for country work in Cerro Gordo county. Mr. Crossley has also served as a member of the City Council.

Fraternally he is a member of Mason City Lodge, No. 224, I. O. O. F., of which he has been treasurer for twenty years, and of Anchor Encampment, No. 102. He is very prominent in the order, and as a trustee of the Odd Fellows' and Orphans' Home had the supervision of the erection of the present building, which was erected in 1904 to replace the one destroyed in that year by fire.

Mr. Crossley married, July 12, 1869, Gertrude T. Van Fleet, who was born in Auburn, New York, April 7, 1850. Their only child, Frankie M., is the wife of Harry E. Evans, of Callaway, Nebraska.

REVEREND MICHAEL CAROLAN.

Father Michael Carolan, dean of the St. Joseph's church at Mason City, is one of the influential and honored representatives of the priesthood of the Catholic church in Iowa, where he has labored with all of consecrated zeal and devotion for a period of more than thirty-three years and where his efforts have been potent in the upbuilding of a parish that is specially prosperous both in spiritual and temporal affairs. The original church of this parish was erected in 1871, by Rev. Father Feeley, of Charles City, Iowa, and occupied the site of the present substantial and beautiful edifice, which was erected in 1901 and which stands as one of the concrete results of the effective efforts of the present pastor. The first priest to assume regular charge of the parish was Rev. Father Daniel Flannery, who assumed the pastorate in 1873 and who was finally succeeded by Rev. Father Thomas O'Reilly. The latter was succeeded by the present incumbent, Dean Carolan, in October, 1877, and during the long intervening years the latter has continued his zealous labors in this field, proving a faithful servant in the vineyard of the divine Master. At the time of Dean Carolan's assumption of the pastorate of this parish the membership comprised not more than seventy-five families and the splendid growth of the parish is shown in the fact that it now has a membership of more than three hundred families.

Dean Carolan was born in county Longford, Ireland, on the 2nd of December, 1844, and his parents Patrick and Mary (Werd) Carolan, passed their entire lives in the Emerald Isle. He was reared to maturity in his native land and there received his educational discipline, which included the classical and ecclesiastical courses in Carlow College, where he was ordained to the priesthood on the 26th of May, 1877. Immediately after his ordination Father Carolan came to America and made Iowa his destination. In October of the same year he assumed the pastoral charge of his present parish and here he has since remained, one of the valued and honored members of the priesthood of his church in this state. His zeal and self-abnegation have been equaled by his genial and courteous bearing in his associations with his fellow men and he holds the unqualified esteem of the community in which he has so long lived and labored as well as the affectionate regard of the members of his flock. In the early days the services of the church were attended to by none too many priests and thus Father Carolan found it incumbent upon him to administer, in addition to the work of his Mason City parish, to the church people

at Rockwell, Sheffield, Dougherty, Plymouth, Grafton, Manly Junction, Kensett, Northwood, Bristow, Lake Mills, Forest City, Clear Lake and Garner. He thus found ample scope for his labors in holding services and attending to the spiritual needs of the settlers throughout a wide area of country. The first parochial school of his home parish was erected in 1878 and was in charge of the Sisters of St. Francis from the convent schools at Clinton. The parochial school building was destroyed by fire on February 28, 1898, and on the same site was erected the present substantial and commodious modern building, representing an investment of thirty thousand dollars. This building has been in practical use since the 1st of September, 1910. The present fine parochial residence was erected in 1896. The original parish of St. Joseph's church was divided in 1908 and Rev. Edward Dougherty, a native of Cerro Gordo county, is now pastor of the adjunct parish. Father Carolan has held the distinguished position of dean of the archdiocese of Dubuque since 1890, and he is one of the influential factors in the generic work of this state and is now an irremovable rector.

JOHN KEW.

The late John Kew, for many years a prominent resident of Cerro Gordo county, was born in Lincolnshire, England, in 1840, and died in Rockwell, February 28, 1910. He was the son of William and Jane (Smith) Kew. The family concluded to seek new fortunes across the seas and came to the United States on a sailing vessel, the voyage taking nine weeks. They went to Cherry Valley, Illinois, and John Kew secured work by the month upon farms in Boone county. The father died and the mother and the children removed to Winneshiek county, Iowa. Here John Kew remained for about a year with a brother-in-law and then returned to Illinois. Meantime the mother and her son George moved again to Clay county Iowa, where they took up a claim. After proving it up they were besieged by grasshoppers which continued in such numbers that they sold out and came to Geneseo township, Cerro Gordo county, where the mother remained until her death. Mr. Kew was one of eight children as follows: Mrs. Mary Casterton, (deceased) formerly of Decorah, Iowa; Mrs. Fannie Darrington, of Hester, Iowa; Mrs. Jane Casterton, (deceased), formerly of Canton, Minnesota; Mrs. Ann Moorehead, of Rockwell; John, the subject of this biography; George, living in Rockwell; Mrs. Emma Young, of Canton, Minnesota; and Edward, who died in England.

To the lot of John Kew fell in full measure the experiences of the pioneer in a new country. During the progress of the Civil war he pulled up stakes in Illinois and located near Rockwell, or as it was called in those days Linn Grove. He came in company with his future mother-in-law and her family and remained with them for a number of years assisting them in their agricultural ventures. In the late '60s he bought land, this being a tract of eighty acres of wild prairie land. He hauled logs from Mason City and with the aid of a lumber saw constructed his first house and built a log stable. With his own hands he broke the sod and made all the improvements on the place. From time to time he added to his first purchase until he was the owner of four hundred acres, all but sixty acres of which he improved himself. He later built a frame house and barn and in various ways made his place up-to-date. Mr. Kew and his wife were among the first members of the Christian church at Rockwell and afterward when its services were discontinued they affiliated with the Congregational church. Politically Mr. Kew was a Democrat and held the office of road commissioner.

On January 1, 1868, John Kew took as his wife Margaret Dillingham, born in 1853. She was the daughter of Sidney and Catherine (Sweet) Dillingham, the former a resident of Troy, New York, and the latter born in New York. The Dillinghams were early settlers in Boone county, Illinois, and came to Cerro Gordo county at the same time as Mr. Kew. Mrs. Dillingham and her son William bought considerable land in Geneseo township. Mr. and Mrs. Kew became the parents of four children, these being: William H.; Lelia, wife of A. C. Campbell, who resides upon the old homestead; Edward, living in Rockwell; and Katherine E., who died when about two years of age.

William H., the eldest son of John Kew and a substantial merchant, was born June 19, 1869, in Geneseo township and received his education in the public schools, finishing with a course in the Rockwell high school. His first agricultural activity was upon his father's farm, which he made his home until 1892, when he commenced farming on land rented from his father. Mr. Kew married in 1893 and continued to rent and operate his father's farm until 1907 in which year he bought a home in the town of Rockwell and removed to it. In the winter of that same year he and his brother-in-law, A. C. Diestlemier, formed a partnership and bought their present general merchandise business. They enlarged the stock and in 1908 Mr. Kew bought the store building in which they are now located. Mr. Kew was successful as a

farmer, employing progressive methods, and his principal object in coming to Rockwell was to give his children an opportunity to attend school. He is a stanch Republican and for four years was township assessor. He is an advocate of the cause of good education and is at present a member of the school board. Fraternally he enjoys membership in the L. O. O. F., and the Modern Woodmen of America, and he and his wife are active members of the Congregational church.

William H. Kew was married July 20, 1893, the lady to become his wife being Miss Louise M. Amendt, who was born in Stephenson county, Illinois, and came to Hardin county, Iowa, with her parents, Sebastian and Wilhelmina (Kottman) Amendt. There the father owned and operated a farm for a time, but later he sold it and removed to Geneseo township, where he bought the farm upon which he lived until his death. His wife survives and makes her residence upon the old homestead. She was a native of Stephenson county, Illinois, and the father was born in Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Kew are the parents of five children, as follows: Eugene E., Millie R., Lellia A., Luella and Ross W. All of them are at home and in attendance at the public schools.

IVER HODNEFIELD.

Iver Hodnefield, a native of Norway and one of Lake township's enterprising agriculturists and good citizens, belongs to the ranks of the self-made men, having been left an orphan at the age of fifteen years in a comparatively strange country. He was born in Stavanger, Norway, January 9, 1864, his parents being John and Gunnild (Olson) Hodnefield. He came to Cerro Gordo in June, 1875, with his elders who located in section 33, Lake township. The mother died that same year, at the age of forty-one years, and four years later seven children were left alone in the world by the death of the father, he being at the time forty-eight years of age. The family had emigrated to the United States in 1873 and had spent two years in Story county. Upon his coming to Cerro Gordo county the father had purchased some wild land and had improved it to some extent. After his death the home place was sold and the estate settled, the children being left with practically nothing. The helpless little band made their home for a few years with an uncle in Hardin county and then made their own way in the world. The seven children are as follows: Carrie died twenty years ago as a young woman; Christina is the wife of Dr. Charles Flynn of Postville, Iowa; Iver is the third

child; Olive for the past seventeen years has been a missionary in China under the auspices of the Norwegian Lutheran church; Julia is the wife of J. William Brown of Colorado; John is a farmer in Lincoln township; and Cornelius is a train despatcher on the Chicago & Northwestern Railway.

Iver Hodnefield went forth in the world as a self supporting member of society at the age of sixteen years, and he has been thoroughly successful. In 1887 he made his first purchase of land, which was the nucleus of his present homestead. He now owns and operates two hundred and forty acres of finely improved land in section 34, Lake township, and raises stock in addition to his general farming. He has some registered sheep. Politically Mr. Hodnefield is an adherent of the Republican party, and in evidence of the confidence in which he is held by his neighbors the offices of trustee, school director and other public duties have been bestowed upon him. He and his family are members of Bethlehem church (Lutheran) of Clear Lake.

In the fall of 1888 Mr. Hodnefield was married in Lake township to Miss Eliza Colby, born in Dane county, Wisconsin, in October, 1871. She is the daughter of Colburn and Ann (Oscars) Colby, who located in Cerro Gordo county in 1876, their land being situated in section 27, Lake township. Afterward the parents removed to Mason City where they resided until their demise, the father's death occurring in 1903, at the age of sixty-six years, and the mother's, in 1907, at the age of sixty-six years. Mrs. Hodnefield is a sister of William M. Colby of Mason City, the promoter mentioned elsewhere in this volume. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Hodnefield: Clara Jessie, aged nineteen, is a student at Jewell College; Ella Ann died in 1898, at the age of four years; Elmer Iver is aged eleven; and Lillian Eliza is aged seven.

HENRY BRODRICK.

For nearly three decades Henry Brodriek has been identified with the farming interests of Falls township, Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, he having landed here in March, 1883. As a young man he started out in life here with practically no capital, but he was energetic and persevering, and in 1894 he purchased his present farm. All the improvements on this place were made by him.

Mr. Brodrick was born near Fairstock, province of Ontario, Canada, January 4, 1861, son of Henry and Margaret (Gearhart) Brodrick, natives of Hessen-Darmstadt, Germany, who came to

this continent in early life and were married in Canada. In 1885 they followed their son to Iowa, and settled in Falls township, Cerro Gordo county. Here the mother died April 7, 1887, at the age of about fifty-six years. The father died in the fall of 1908, at the age of eighty-nine years. He was a farmer and stock raiser all his life. Of his family one son, Jacob R., and six daughters are still residents of Canada, and besides Henry two other members of the family came to Iowa—Mrs. Mary Schurtz, of Falls township, and Mrs. Maggie Numirler, of Forest City. Henry was the first of the family to come to Iowa with the exception of an uncle, Henry Brodrick, now deceased, who made settlement here among the early pioneers.

Henry Brodrick, the direct subject of this sketch, married in Falls township, January 4, 1885, Miss Nettie Gildner, who was born in this county, in June, 1868, daughter of Conrad Gildner, personal mention of whom appears on another page of this work. Mr. and Mrs. Brodrick have three daughters: Clara M., born August 23, 1889; Pearl M., March 14, 1892, and Lilla M., July 23, 1898.

Mr. Brodrick was reared in the Lutheran church, and naturally gives it his preference, though he is not a member of any church. Socially he affiliates with the M. W. A., of Rock Falls, and politically he usually gives the Democratic party the benefit of his vote. His postoffice address is Rock Falls, Iowa.

WILLIAM KNAAK.

A self-made man and one of the most progressive of his community is found in the person of William Knaak, who owns and occupies a fine farm in section 6, Lake township, Cerro Gordo county, Iowa.

Mr. Knaak was born June 14, 1850, fifty miles from Berlin, Germany, son of Christian and Charlotta (Tech) Knaak, both of whom came to this country and passed their later years in the home of William Knaak, where they died, the father in 1884, at the age of sixty-four years; the mother, February 15, 1899, at the age of seventy-seven years. In their family was one other child, a daughter, Amelia, now the wife of Fred Schmidt, of Clear Lake, Iowa.

In his native land Mr. Knaak received a common school education, and after the removal of the family to this country and their settlement in Detroit, he began working at the carpenter's trade. That was in 1870. He soon mastered the trade and engaged in contracting and building, and was thus occupied when the panic



Wm. Knaak.

of 1873-4 came on. This brought about a change in his plans and operations. In April, 1874, he came to Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, and bought forty acres of land in section 8, Lake township, on which he settled down to farming. This land he improved from its wild state and cultivated until 1884, when he sold it, and with the proceeds purchased eighty acres of his present farm, then untouched by the plough. Subsequently he made other purchases of land until he now owns two hundred and eighty acres in Lake township and one hundred and sixty acres in Lincoln township, the former being the home farm, which is improved with two sets of buildings. He has a large, modern home; a barn, thirty-six by one hundred and twelve feet in dimensions; a double crib, thirty-two by sixty-four feet, with solid concrete floors and foundation, besides feed sheds, hog houses and numerous other farm buildings—all his own work. Since 1883 he has been feeding and shipping cattle and hogs, handling annually about one hundred head, which he ships to the Chicago market, always going himself with the shipment to Chicago.

And while Mr. Knaak has for years carried on extensive operations in farming and stock raising, he has not confined himself to these. From time to time he has identified himself with other enterprises. He is a director, and adjustor for eight counties, of both the Iowa Mutual Tornado Insurance Company and the Town Mutual Fire Insurance Company, and is a director of the Cerro Gordo Farm Co-operative Creamery Company at Clear Lake, of which, for seven years, he was president. In 1904 he erected the postoffice building in Clear Lake, a modern, two-story, brick structure; the only fireproof building in the town. For years he has been prominently identified with the Cerro Gordo Fair Association, in which he is a director and superintendent of cattle.

Fraternally Mr. Knaak has membership in various organizations in Clear Lake, including the F. and A. M., the K. of P., the M. W. A., Yeomen and M. B. A. Politically he has been a life-long Republican, active and enthusiastic in the work for the party, serving as committeeman and as delegate to various conventions. For ten years he has served as school treasurer. All this is especially worthy of note in a man who landed in this country without a knowledge of its language, and who by his own efforts, beginning with the first reader, without a teacher, acquired a usage of English. In the summer of 1910 he and his wife made a visit to his old home in Germany.

Mr. Knaak married, August 18, 1872, Miss Wilhemina Trebesch, who was born in Germany, November 28, 1849, a daughter

of Frederick and Christiana (Zone) Trebesch. The Trebesch family came to the United States in 1872 and settled at Detroit, Michigan, where her parents died, her father in 1884, at the age of sixty years; her mother in 1890, at the age of seventy. To Mr. and Mrs. Knaak have been given six children, namely: Herman, at home; Annie, wife of Herman Buss, of Clear Lake, Iowa; Matilda, wife of Frank Tesene, of Lake township; Hulda, at home; Flora, wife of William Schmoll, of Lake township; and Frances, at home.

GEORGE B. ROCKWELL.

Although in the quiet capacity of a private citizen the life and influence of George B. Rockwell was of great weight in the town in Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, which he founded and which bore his name. To quote from a tribute paid him by the local press at the time of his demise and which seems to voice the very unusual esteem in which he was held: "From the day he first set foot upon the virgin soil of this goodly land, George Byron Rockwell has been a potent, virile factor in the material, spiritual and educational growth of the community. For many years the impress of his master hand was felt on matters of public import throughout the county, district and state. It may be said of a truth that Cerro Gordo county never possessed a citizen of higher ideals or keener intellect than Mr. Rockwell."

Mr. Rockwell was born at West Milton, Saratoga county, New York, December 6, 1828, and died at Rockwell, January 7, 1908, thus being nearly eighty years of age when he passed to the great beyond. His parents were David Judd and Ruth (Keeler) Rockwell, the former a native of Bethel, Connecticut, and the latter of West Milton, New York, in which latter place they were married. They lived out nearly all of the remainder of their long lives in Akron, New York, where the father engaged in farming. The founder of the family of Rockwell in America was John Rockwell, who was born in the vicinity of Dorchester, England, and came to America only a score of years after the landing of the Mayflower Pilgrims, first putting foot upon the Atlantic coast in 1641. The mother's family, the Keelers, came to America about the same time, their first representative, Ralph Keeler, emigrating from his native England. His descendants were some of them soldiers in the Revolutionary war.

George B. Rockwell was the eldest of seven children. He was able, however, to secure a good public school and academic education and for a number of years taught school in his native state.

During moments of leisure he studied law, and although not admitted to the bar he practiced his profession, and was predisposed to the independent, wholesome life of an agriculturist. In 1850, when a young man about twenty-two years of age, he became imbued with the pioneer spirit and pushed westward, locating in Walworth county, Wisconsin. Upon the frontier he again took up the life of a school master, his residence and activities there being of about a year's duration. He then came on to Allamakee county, Iowa, the date of his first identification with the state which was to prove his permanent home being February, 1851. He secured a position in the Iowa district schools, and invested his earnings in a tract of wild land. In 1853 he returned to New York state to be married and within a week after assuming marital relations started back with his bride for Allamakee county. Mrs. Rockwell was a delicate woman and she found the pioneer life both rigorous and lonely, and in consideration for her Mr. Rockwell sold his property and, after a residence of only four years in Iowa, removed to a farm of two hundred acres which he had purchased near Geneva, Kane county, Illinois, where he remained for the following eleven years.

In 1864 Mr. Rockwell sold his Kane county farm, and having for many years remembered Iowa as a desirable location he now returned there with his family, buying land in Geneseo township, Cerro Gordo county, from J. J. Rogers, one of the earliest settlers. Upon a portion of this property the city of Rockwell is now located. He did not bring his family to the new home until December of that year, and they were then installed in a building used for a school house, the fact that there was only one pupil at that time making its utilization as a dwelling practicable. As soon as he was able to do so, Mr. Rockwell hauled lumber from Clear Lake and Iowa Falls and built a frame house, a part of which is still standing and incorporated in the house standing upon the family homestead. With typical pioneer pluck he began upon the numerous monumental tasks which confronted him, breaking the sod, fencing the land and finally bringing the estate to a condition of high improvement. As an agriculturist and stock breeder he was extremely successful. In the latter capacity his specialty was Short Horn cattle, his Grasdale herd having the reputation during the '80s of being one of the finest in Iowa. Finally, however, he decided to give up the active life of a farmer and to this end sold his farms, aggregating about six hundred splendid acres, closed out his herds, built the fine residence in Rockwell now occupied by his daughter, Mrs. McClelland, and removed to it, the

year being 1887. Not suited to a life of inactivity, although of advancing years, he went to South Dakota in 1891 and purchased a large tract of land in Lincoln county, ultimately selling that and becoming the possessor of fourteen hundred acres in Moody county, South Dakota, upon which for a number of years he conducted extensive farming operations. He maintained his home in Rockwell, going to South Dakota in the summer to look after his affairs. He left a large and valuable estate.

He was always intensely loyal to the town which bore his name and energetic in his efforts to bring about its advancement. It was through his instrumentality that Rockwell became an incorporated town when it did, in order that drunkenness and kindred vices might be suppressed. It was largely through his influence that the route of the Iowa Central Railway was brought through the town, this proving of incalculable benefit. Mr. Rockwell was one of the directors of the above mentioned road.

George B. Rockwell was a man not only of untiring energy, but one of versatile attainments. For several years during the early '80s he conducted an agricultural department in the Rockwell *Phonograph*, the same being widely approved for the wisdom and practicality of its views. He gave strenuous battle to intemperance and as some one has vividly put it; "For many years he was a veritable 'enforcement league' unto himself." A man of strong spiritual nature he found great pleasure in his church relations and was active, often initiative in the good causes of the church. When on April 26, 1873, the Congregational church of Rockwell was organized with a charter membership of twelve, Mr. Rockwell was one of that number. He was elected one of the trustees and later for many years served as one of the deacons, his heart, mind and means being devoted to its upbuilding and also to that of the Sunday school, in which he was the beloved Bible class teacher. He was captain of the organized endeavor, which brought about the building of the church edifice in 1879. Although he never sought office he was very influential politically, being at times a leader in this field.

Mr. Rockwell was married August 31, 1853, as previously mentioned, the lady to become his wife being Elizabeth Peninah Jackson, daughter of William and Mary Ann (Havens) Jackson. Mrs. Rockwell was born August 26, 1829, at Clarence, New York, where she was the loved daughter in a home of refinement. To this union were born four children, only one of whom, Grace R., now Mrs. William F. McClelland of Rockwell, survives. A son, named David W., died in infancy. Mary E., wife of J. A. Felthous, died

January 30, 1905, aged fifty; and Julia R., wife of A. A. Moore, died September 14, 1888, at twenty-six years of age. There are three grandchildren: George R., Edith G. and Chester C. Felthous, of St. Paul, Minnesota.

The death of Mr. Rockwell followed a stroke of paralysis, the first affliction of this nature having come about three years previously. The funeral was held in the Congregational church, the services being conducted by Dr. L. F. Parker of Grinnell, Iowa. As a token of respect to the memory of the departed the business houses of the town were closed and the public schools dismissed during the funeral hour.

Mr. Rockwell was survived only a few months by his devoted wife, whose death occurred October 20, 1908. Never a woman of much endurance, she had been for nearly thirty years in a state bordering on invalidism, and for seven years was a helpless charge of the daughter who had given her best years to her constant care. She was a charter member of the Congregational church of Rockwell, and the last save one, Mrs. Caroline Felthous, to remain on the roster. To quote from a well deserved tribute published by one who knew and loved her best, "Elizabeth P. Rockwell was a woman of superior intelligence and native refinement. In the home, which was her sphere, her judgment was not questioned. Here, her influence for true character and upright living was a most potent factor. She was a woman not swayed by every shifting wind, and was usually able to discern correctly the false ring of the counterfeit. In an early day she actively participated in the affairs of the community, which will be remembered by the few remaining pioneer citizens, although she may never have been seen outside of her own home by many of the younger ones of the present generation." The last rites were conducted by Rev. L. D. Blandford, assisted by Mrs. Blandford, and she was interred in the Rockwell cemetery beside her husband, and her memory and example like his will long be one of the dearest heritages of the younger generation of the town. Mr. Rockwell is survived by a brother, Henry T. Rockwell, of St. Charles, Illinois; and a sister, Mrs. Ruth Churchill, of Akron, New York.

JUDGE GEORGE VERMILYA.

One of the oldest and most respected citizens of Mason City, Judge George Vermilya is widely and favorably known throughout this section of Cerro Gordo county as an upright, honest man, of sterling worth and as a fine representative of those courageous

pioneers who settled in the county in the days of its infancy. He has witnessed wonderful changes during the past half century, flourishing towns and thriving cities having sprung up as if by magic, while magnificent agricultural regions have usurped the place of the raw prairie land which obtained when he made his first appearance on Iowa soil. In this grand transformation he has taken an active part, redeeming from its original wildness a part of this beautiful country, in the meantime accumulating for himself a handsome property.

Judge Vermilya was born, January 17, 1822, in Westerlo, Albany county, New York, a son of Joseph and Susan (Pinkney) Vermilya. His father, a man of brains, was a Radical in the full sense of the term, intensely interested in needed reforms, being a zealous advocate of the temperance cause and one of the leaders in the organization of the first anti-slavery societies in his native town. They reared eleven children, six sons and five daughters, all of whom lived to become industrious and respected men and women, the world being the better for their having lived and labored in it.

Brought up on the farm in Albany county, George Vermilya in common with his brothers and sisters received a practical common school education, but unlike some of the other school children, never outgrew the diffidence and bashfulness which handicapped him as a child and has since been many times a detriment to him. When he was eighteen years old his home nest was broken up by the death of his parents, and the family became scattered. George found work among the neighboring farmers, and in partnership with his brother John, carried on the parental acres until 1844. Lured westward then by the golden reports of the country on the frontier, he started for Illinois alone, going by packet boat on the Erie Canal to Lockport, New York, thence to Niagara Falls and Buffalo. Taking a steamboat at the latter city, Mr. Vermilya went by way of the Great Lakes to Chicago, arriving there when the people were shouting for their presidential candidates, either Henry Clay or James K. Polk. After paying his bill at the stage house or hotel on Lake street, the principal thoroughfare in Chicago at that date, he had the munificent sum of ten dollars in his pockets, his only available assets with the possible exception of one hundred dollars or so interest in the old homestead in Albany county.

Tramping westward on the old stage road towards Galena for about twenty-four miles, Mr. Vermilya found himself in a nice little village called Bloomingdale. A line of four-horse coaches owned by Frink & Walker passed through the village daily, and

the principal hotel was kept by Colonel Hoyt. After spending two years in the village, the directors of the district school urged Mr. Vermilya to take charge of the winter term of the school, and he accepted the position, having twenty-five pupils. In the summer of 1847 Mr. Vermilya paid fifty dollars for forty acres of good prairie land in that vicinity, near Meacham's Grove. Leaving a little money with a fellow at the Grove, he started for his old home in the east, and that was the last he ever saw of the money or of the fellow, although, as he says, "the fellow claimed to be of refined and purified clay, and the money was untainted."

From Chicago Mr. Vermilya went by boat to Saint Joseph, thence by coach to Marshall, by rail to Detroit, thence on the Canadian side by English steamer to Buffalo, from there to Albany by rail, thence by four-horse coach to Westerlo. At the old homestead he found his brother John and family, and soon after they were joined by his brother Gilbert, who gave Mr. Vermilya a horse and a trap for his interest in the old home estate. Becoming interested then in the work of establishing public libraries in each school district, an act having passed the state legislature authorizing the directors of each school district to expend a stated sum of money for that purpose, Mr. Vermilya started on that mission, going to New York city to make arrangements in regard to books.

After working in southern New York a few months he started south, passing through New Jersey, and at Christmas time was in Philadelphia. He found Chestnut street very nice, was entertained at the theatres; saw Girard College; viewed the Schuylkill Water Works; visited Brandywine battlefield, saw where Washington crossed the Delaware; and trod the ground at Valley Forge. Subsequently, while in Carbondale, Pennsylvania, a gentleman said to him, "I should think you would rather spend the winter in our school house than out in the cold." He accepted the proposition and taught school in that place until the spring of 1848. The following summer Mr. Vermilya spent at the old homestead in Westerlo, after which he crossed the Catskill Mountains and the Delaware river into Pennsylvania, visiting the coal mining regions at Scranton, the Wyoming Valley, Wilkes-Barre, and Mauch Chunk. Stopping at Pottsville long enough to recover from a slight illness, he made his way into Maryland. There he had several unique experiences. On one occasion he relates, while sitting at a table spread with a clean white cloth, twenty able-bodied negro slaves quietly filed in to the table, were waited upon by a white woman, and having eaten their dinner quietly filed out.

At night he could plainly hear a company of slaves, men and girls, merrily laughing and talking. One Sunday while in Maryland he spent at a large plantation, a beautiful place, its fine buildings surrounded by handsome shade trees. The proprietor himself was away, but the mistress sat at the head of the table, at the commencement of each meal making the sign of the cross.

During the winter of 1848 and 1849 Mr. Vermilya had charge of the school which he had taught in Carbondale, Pennsylvania, the previous winter, and in the spring of 1849 was urged by the directors to accept the superintendency of the schools. Declining the offer, he made still another visit to the scenes of his childhood days. From there he started for Chicago by the overland route, going with a horse and buggy through southern New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Michigan, arriving in Chicago in January, 1850, ere the days of railways or trolleys. Going then to a town lying twenty-five miles northwest of that city, where he had a cousin, he resided there five years, being engaged to some extent in farming on the one hundred and forty acres of land which he purchased, the greater part of the time, however, traveling in and about Chicago for insurance companies.

Having an attack of western fever in June, 1855, Mr. Vermilya came to Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, locating on Shell Rock, Falls township, where he bought one hundred and sixty acres of land for one hundred and sixty dollars and five acres of timber for fifty dollars. He returned to Illinois, married, and four months later, on May 20, 1856, started westward with his bride, having in his outfit three yoke of oxen attached to a lumber wagon, a span of mares attached to a light spring wagon, twenty-five head of cattle and ten colts. Camping and cooking by the wayside, and sleeping in the covered wagon at night, he arrived in Falls township June 15, 1856, and for awhile camped in their wagon. Buying one hundred and twenty acres of adjoining land, Mr. Vermilya erected a house, eleven feet by eighteen feet, eight feet in height, trying first a slab roof, then a hay roof, after awhile having a shingled roof, and a stone and mortar chimney. Breaking up ten acres of the prairie the first season, he sowed buckwheat and planted a few potatoes, and that summer cut fifty tons of hay with a scythe. He added a shed one hundred feet long to his stable of fifty feet, covering it with slough grass, and having gathered his buckwheat and potatoes was ready for the long winter, which began that year on November 15 and lasted until April 10, being very snowy and severely cold. The next season Mr. Vermilya broke up another fifty acres of land, raised three colts, some calves and pigs, a little

wheat and corn, and sold some butter and cheese, making a little more than living expenses. Continuing his residence in Falls township for five years, prosperity smiled on all of his undertakings, and he became prominent and popular in public affairs, serving as road supervisor, inspector of school teachers, president of the local school board, township assessor, and, in 1859, much to his surprise, being elected judge of Cerro Gordo county. Removing to Mason City in 1860, he filled the office to which he had been chosen to the best of his ability, and at the end of his term of two years was elected county treasurer and county recorder, receiving a salary of three hundred dollars a year, at the end of the term being honored with a re-election for another two years.

From 1865 until 1870 Mr. Vermilya invested in real estate to a considerable extent, buying, for the sum of fourteen hundred dollars, the one hundred acres of land comprised in his home property on East State street; a quarter of a section of land in Mount Vernon township for one thousand dollars; lands in Dougherty, Geneseo and Falls townships; considerable land at tax sales; and erected the house which he now occupies, having removed there from Fourth street.

From 1869 until 1872, inclusive, Mr. Vermilya was engaged in the lumber business at Mason City, buying his lumber principally in Minneapolis, Minnesota, although he bought some in Oshkosh and other Wisconsin towns, and hauling a large part of it from Austin, the nearest railroad point, to Mason City. There being no lumber yard west of this place, a good deal of his lumber was sold in Hancock and Winnebago counties.

Judge Vermilya was for several years master of the Mason City Grange and secretary of the Cerro Gordo County Grange. In the early '70s he was a member of the City Council, which met in his office, then located at the corner of Fourth and Main streets, but was afterwards removed to the corner of State and Main streets. He was afterwards elected justice of the peace, and president of the County Agricultural Society, both of which offices he resigned. For sometime he was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal church, but took little part in the affairs of the board with the exception of furnishing the lumber when, in 1870 and 1871, the church edifice was built.

Mr. Vermilya married, January 6, 1856, in Illinois, Helen Miller, who was born in Tioga county, New York, August 29, 1831, and died in July, 1898, in Mason City, Iowa. Her father, Alva Miller, came with his family westward from New York state to Illinois in 1837, locating in Cook county. Of the five children born

to Mr. and Mrs. Vermilya four are living, namely: Jessie, wife of F. H. Decker, of Superior, Wisconsin; Theron, in the restaurant business, Mason City; Grace, who married W. H. Dilts, makes her home with Mr. Vermilya; Lydia, who died in 1893; Gorden M., in Holtville, California. Judge Vermilya is now past eighty-eight years of age but as active as most men at seventy. He has all his faculties and enjoys good health. He is one of the few pioneers left that came to this county at the early date he did, and he is honored and revered in the community which has so long represented his home.

VALENTINE BLIEN.

Among the successful merchants in Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, is Valentine Blien, who carries a good stock of general merchandise in his establishment at Rock Falls. Mr. Blien was born in New York city July 1, 1858, son of John and Clara (Claus) Blien, both natives of Germany, the father born, October 28, 1831, died January 3, 1903, and the mother born August 8, 1837, is yet living. They were the parents of twelve children, of whom five survive, namely: Valentine; Elizabeth, widow of William Roebuck, living with her brother Valentine; John, of Plymouth, Iowa; Caroline, wife of Fred Lippert, of Mason City; and Leonard, of Rock Falls. The father of this family was a shoemaker and followed his trade in Germany. He came to the United States about 1856, having barely his passage money, and he spent forty-five days on the ocean voyage. He worked at his trade in New York city until 1867, then located at Plymouth, Iowa, where he followed his trade one year, then followed the same occupation at Rock Falls until 1880, when he established a general merchandise store, which he conducted until he sold out to his sons.

At the time the family located at Rock Falls, Iowa, Valentine Blien was but a child. He grew up there and received his education in the district schools. He remained at home until he was twenty-two years of age, then began working at the trade of plasterer. In 1873 he moved to Mason City and followed his trade until 1885, then bought his father's business at Rock Falls. In 1895 he took his brother L. C., into partnership and in 1905 they took in another brother, John, establishing the store at Plymouth, and of which John has charge. The Rock Falls store carries a stock of general merchandise valued at six thousand dollars and the one at Plymouth has a stock worth six thousand dollars. Valentine and L. C. Blien together owned three hundred and twenty acres of

land in Falls township, and the two, Valentine and L. C., own six hundred and forty acres in Oliver county, North Dakota.

On June 1, 1887, Mr. Blien married Hattie Kidder, a native of Pennsylvania, who died in 1888. He married in 1891 Anna Kirk, a native of Virginia. They have no children. Mr. and Mrs. Blien are members of the Lutheran church. He belongs to the Masonic fraternity, being affiliated with Benevolence Lodge, No. 145, A. F. and A. M.; Benevolence Chapter, No. 46, R. A. M.; and Antioch Commandery, No. 43, Knights Templars, of Mason City. He is also a member of the K. of P., of Mason City, and of the M. W. A., No. 5064, of Rock Falls. He is a popular and public spirited citizen of Rock Falls and is highly esteemed by his fellows. For the past thirteen years he has served as postmaster of Rock Falls. He and his brothers are industrious and ambitious and have displayed good judgment in the conduct of their affairs.

MARIUS P. FLOY.

Marius P. Floy, a prosperous farmer and cattle raiser owning some seven hundred acres of well improved land in Cerro Gordo county, was originally a subject of the Kaiser, his birth having occurred in Schleswig-Holstein, February 17, 1853. His parents were Peter P. and Marie (Heningson) Floy. The father died in Germany in 1890 and the following year the mother and her family came to America and took up their residence in Cerro Gordo county. Here the mother resided until her demise in 1902, at the age of seventy-nine years. There is a large family of children, the following being the enumeration: Senek P., of Grimes township; Karl P., of Grimes township; Maria (Hansen), of Thornton, now a widow; Peter P., of Grimes township; Matz P., of Grimes township; Martin P., of Grimes township; Antonia P., of Grimes township; Ingeborg (Neve) of Franklin county.

Mr. Floy's father was a fur dealer, but a man of small means. Nevertheless the son received a good education in his native land and began his career as a wage earner, working upon farms. When he came to America his earthly possessions consisted of nothing but a ticket from New York to Chicago. He arrived in Chicago just after the fire of 1871 and work was scarce, so he went on to Kankakee county, where he was gratified to get work with a farmer who paid him sixteen dollars a month. After three years he came on to Sheffield and for two years worked for farmers in its vicinity. He was employed by John T. Richards and later he and Jacob Nissen rented land of him and operated it in partnership.

The two in course of time bought two hundred acres of land. They broke the land and attempted to cultivate it and kept bachelors hall or "batched," as life without a female housekeeper is termed. Mr. Floy also hunted extensively. But though they worked hard they lost the farm, only retaining their horses and machinery. Mr. Floy changed from wheat to cattle raising, purchased cows and calves and two hundred and forty acres on time at seven dollars an acre, paying eight per cent interest. This land forms a part of the present Floy homestead. The cattle raising proved financially successful and Mr. Floy has stuck to the business. Mr. Floy's large farm is highly improved, all of the improvements having been made by him. He handles a good grade of Polled Angus cattle, which he believes to be superior. He also raises many hogs. A part of his land is situated near Thornton. Mr. Floy was reared in the Lutheran church and has very liberal religious views. For many years he has given loyal allegiance to the Republican party and for the past sixteen years has served as school treasurer.

Mr. Floy was married, February 9, 1882, the lady to become his wife being Miss Caroline Blumenstein, born July 27, 1860, in Jo Daviess county, Illinois. She is the daughter of Christian and Fredericka (Demmer) Blumenstein, natives of Germany, who came to the United States in 1854. The father died in Illinois in 1865, at the age of forty years, and the mother survived until July, 1905, her demise occurring in Cerro Gordo county at the age of seventy-five years. Mrs. Floy came to the county in the spring of 1876 and she has ever since resided here. This couple are the parents of eight children, six of whom are living and at home. They are Maria; Christian; Josephine, who died in 1909 at the age of twenty-two; Katherine, who is a teacher in the county schools; Wilhelm; Marcus and Henry (twins); and Elmer. The post-office address is Thornton.

JACOB W. STEIL.

Jacob W. Steil, a prominent farmer and stock raiser of Falls township, Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, where he owns and operates eighty acres of land in section 33, is a native of the state, born in Chickasaw county December 1, 1865. He is a son of Peter Steil, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. His parents are natives of Germany.

Until he was eleven years old Jacob W. Steil lived in Chickasaw county, and since 1876 has been a resident of Cerro Gordo

county. He received a common school education and then turned his attention to farming, which he has since followed. He is an up-to-date farmer and follows modern methods. He appreciates the advantages of raising high grade stock and has brought his farm to a high state of cultivation. He has been a resident of Falls township since 1895 and has a large number of friends in the neighborhood. Politically he is a Republican and has served in several minor offices. He is a member of the Mystic Toilers of Mason City, and he and his wife are members of the Christian church of Mason City, which is his postoffice address.

On February 25, 1891, Mr. Steil married Miss Jennie Sauerberg, born in Clinton county, Iowa, November 5, 1874, daughter of George and Katie (Hansen) Sauerberg, who located in Mason City about 1880. Mr. Sauerberg conducted a blacksmith shop and they lived on a farm in Mason township a few years, then moved to Mason City, where they owned a ten acre tract of land. Mr. Sauerberg died March 15, 1910, in his sixty-third year. Mr. and Mrs. Steil have four sons and one daughter, namely: Irvin, aged sixteen years; Miss La Bonna, aged eleven; Milton, seven; Leonard, three, and Verne, one.

CHAUNCEY H. SMITH.

Dr. Smith lent dignity and honor to his profession through his able and active service as physician and surgeon and he was numbered among the pioneer members of his profession in Mason City, where he was engaged in active practice from 1878 until his death, which occurred on the 25th of February, 1909. He was in a most significant sense humanity's friend and he labored with all of zeal and earnestness for the alleviation of suffering and distress, ministering to the afflicted with the utmost self-abnegation and showing an abiding sympathy that transcended mere sentiment to become an actuating motive for helpfulness. The Doctor held a secure place in the affection and esteem of the people of Cerro Gordo county and his memory will long be revered in the community which represented the scene of his devoted labors through so long a period of time.

Dr. Chauncey H. Smith was born in Chautauqua county, New York, on the 26th of March, 1837, and was a son of Walter W. and Lyda (Rice) Smith, both of whom are likewise natives of the old Empire state of the union, where the respective families were founded in the early Colonial days. The Doctor was one of a family of eight children and seven of the number attained to years

of maturity. Dr. Smith was afforded the advantages of the common schools of his native county and made the best possible utilization of the same. At the age of eighteen years he began the study of medicine under the preceptorship of Dr. H. H. Gladden of Panama, where he continued his studies for three years, except during a period passed in attending one course of lectures in the medical department in the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. He pursued his technical studies under difficulties, as his financial resources were very limited, but he grounded himself thoroughly in the learning of his profession and was finally granted his diploma as Doctor of Medicine. In the autumn of 1870 he again attended medical lectures and in March of the following year he received a second diploma. Dr. Smith followed the work of his profession at Sugar Grove, Pennsylvania, until 1878, when he came to Iowa and, as already stated, he was continuously and successfully engaged in the practice of his chosen profession at Mason City from 1878 until he was summoned to the life eternal, in the fullness of years and well earned honors.

With the passing of time Dr. Smith did not permit himself to lapse in the study of the best in medical literature, through recourse to which he kept well informed in connection with the advances made in both medicine and surgery. He was a member of the American Medical Association, the Iowa State Medical Society, the Cerro Gordo County Medical Society and the Austin Flint-Cedar Valley Medical Society. Though he found it impossible to withdraw entirely from the exacting work of his profession, owing to the insistent demands of his loyal clients, including many of the representative families of Cerro Gordo county, Dr. Smith gradually reduced his labors in his profession from the year 1900 and thus found surecease from so constant toil and endeavor during the last years of his life. He was a Republican in his political proclivities and was a member of the Masonic fraternity, in which he passed capitulary degrees, having been affiliated with the lodge, chapter and Knights Templars order in Mason City for many years, and was also a member of the Mystic Shrine. He had a deep reverence for the spiritual verities, but was not formally identified with any church organization. His wife was a devout member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

In the year 1862 was celebrated the marriage of Dr. Smith to Miss Martha J. Allen of Warren county, Pennsylvania. They are survived by two children—George, who is manager of a wholesale grocery at Dubuque, Iowa, and Harriet who is the wife of Dr. William J. Egloff, concerning whom specific mention is made



N.C. Kotchell.

elsewhere in this volume. Mrs. Smith was summoned to the life eternal on the 23rd of January, 1904, at the age of sixty-five years.

NATHAN C. KOTCHELL.

In 1905 President Roosevelt conferred upon Nathan C. Kotchell appointment to the office of postmaster of Mason City, and of this position he has since been incumbent. The commission thus granted in connection with public service was a fitting recognition of the high character and distinctive personal popularity of this pioneer business man and influential and honored citizen of Cerro Gordo county. He has maintained his home in Mason City since the 13th of March, 1878, and he was about nineteen years of age at the time when he thus identified himself with the interests of the city and county in which he was destined to gain marked success and prestige through well directed effort along normal lines of enterprise. Though Mr. Kotchell well merits the title of pioneer he is in the very prime of his strong and useful manhood and continues to mark the passing years with definite and worthy accomplishment as one of the world's gallant army of workers. He is president of the Iowa State Bank of Mason City and has other local interests of important order, including those represented in the Mason City Loan & Trust Company, of which he is vice-president.

Nathan C. Kotchell claims the Badger state as the place of his nativity, as he was born in Jackson county, Wisconsin, on the 4th of November, 1858. He is a son of Amos and Susan (Cadwell) Kotchell, who were numbered among the sterling pioneers of that state and both of whom were of stanch German lineage. They continued to reside in Sparta, Wisconsin, until their death, and there the father followed the vocation of farming. The subject of this review was reared to maturity at Sparta, Monroe county, Wisconsin, to whose public schools he is indebted for his early educational training. His independent career had its inception through his identifying himself with railroad work, and for some time after his establishing his home in Mason City he continued to be employed as brakeman for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad. Effective service brought promotion, as he was given the position of conductor in 1880. He thereafter served as freight and extra-passenger conductor for the road mentioned until 1887, when his impaired health compelled his retirement from this line of work. In that year he became associated with L. F. Cadwell in the conducting of a livery, omnibus, draying and general transfer business in Mason City, under the firm name of Cadwell & Kotchell.

The firm built up an enterprise of most prosperous order and one that took precedence of all other of similar character in the city. With this business Mr. Kotchell continued to be actively identified until the 15th of March, 1899, when he sold his interests and gave about a year to rest and recreation, for the purpose of recruiting his health. Through his connection with the enterprise noted Mr. Kotchell laid the foundations of his very substantial success, and he is now recognized as one of the influential capitalists and business men of the city, to which he came when a young man, with but little in the way of financial resources.

In August, 1900, Mr. Kotchell became associated with other representative citizens in the organization of the Iowa State Bank of Mason City, which was duly incorporated under the laws of the state, with a capital stock of fifty thousand dollars. He was the vice-president of this institution during the first two years of its existence, and was then, in 1902, elected its president, of which chief executive office he has since continued the able and valued incumbent. He began his service in the office of postmaster on the 18th of February, 1905, and he has administered the service with all of discrimination and ability. The force of employes in connection with the various details of the work of the Mason City postoffice now aggregates more than thirty persons, including the deputy postmaster, fourteen clerks, eight city carriers and eight carriers on the rural delivery routes. The business of the office has shown a splendid expansion under the regime of Mr. Kotchell, and its aggregate annual transactions have reached the noteworthy average of nearly sixty thousand dollars. The present fine government building in Mason City was completed in 1909, and the postoffice has been in operation therein since the 15th of February of that year. The Mason City Loan & Trust Company was incorporated in August, 1908, with a capital of fifty thousand dollars, and of this institution, which exercises most beneficent functions, Mr. Kotchell has been vice-president from the time of organization. Mason City has no citizen who exemplifies greater loyalty, progressiveness and public spirit than does Mr. Kotchell, and his aid and influence are ever to be counted upon in connection with measures and enterprises tending to subserve the best interests of the community. He is a wheel-horse of the local contingent of the Republican party and has long been a valued factor in its councils and work in Cerro Gordo county. He is affiliated with the local organizations of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the National Union, and his genial personality has gained and retained to him warm friends in both business and social circles.

At Decorah, this state, on the 9th of August, 1899, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Kotchell to Miss Cora M. Hicks, who was born in Preston, Minnesota, where her father, the late Benjamin G. Hicks, was an honored pioneer and influential citizen. Mrs. Kotchell received excellent educational advantages and is a woman of gracious presence and distinctive culture. For several years prior to her marriage she was a popular teacher in the public schools of Mason City, and she has since been a prominent figure in the best social activities of her home city. She is a member of the Sorosis Club and a former president of the Women's Federated Clubs of Mason City. She is a member of the board of trustees of the Mason City public library and was a member of the building committee that had supervision of the erection of the fine new library building. She has much literary ability and takes a special interest in educational work.

CHARLES HARMS.

Among those citizens who contribute in full measure to the high standing which Mt. Vernon township enjoys as a progressive and altruistic community must be numbered Charles Harms, who is one of the fellowship pursuing the honorable vocation of agriculture. He is a native of Wisconsin, having first seen the light of day on the first of January, 1867. As is the case with a large percentage of America's finest and stanchest stock, Mr. Harms is of Teutonic extraction, his father, Henry Harms, having been born in Hanover, Germany, in 1830. The elder man answered the beckoning finger of opportunity from the shores of the new world and crossed the Atlantic about the year 1860. He located in Illinois and at the outbreak of the Civil war enlisted from Lee county in Company A of the Eighteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He saw extensive service, his regiment being frequently in the thickest of the fight and in the battle of Gettysburg he was unfortunate enough to be wounded. At the time of his honorable discharge he had served for a period covering three years and three months. Shortly afterward he went to Lafayette county, Wisconsin, where he laid the foundations of a home, buying a small farm of ten acres and marrying. He remained there for something like a score of years, gaining in worldly goods, and in 1886 sold out his holdings and came to Cerro Gordo county, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of wild land at twelve dollars an acre. This was situated in section 16, Mt. Vernon township. It requires some stretch of imagination to realize that even at that time there were only

about a dozen settlers in the township. Mr. Harms, the father, cleared his land and successfully cultivated it up to the time of his demise, which occurred on January 19, 1903. Mr. Harms' mother, whose maiden name was Catherine Tipp, was born in Hanover, Germany, in September, 1842, and died November 4, 1899. There were three children in the family, two daughters and one son. Mrs. Martha (Harms) Latham, born October 9, 1865, died April 21, 1897, and Miss Pauline Harms, died July 25, 1895. Mr. Harms is the only one of the children living at the present time. He was only about eighteen at the time of his father's removal to Cerro Gordo county, and has always made his home upon the farm. He attended the graded schools and under the paternal tutelage became soundly grounded in the best agricultural methods. He now owns the old homestead of one hundred and sixty fertile acres, has erected the substantial buildings which grace it, has set out groves of trees, and improved it in every way, making it not only abundant in fruitage but also attractive in aspect. He stands well among his neighbors as a public spirited citizen and is now giving a faithful service as constable of the township. Both he and his wife are members of the German Lutheran church at Rockwell, to which they give not only spiritual but material support. Mr. Harms is an earnest supporter of the principles and policies inaugurated by the Republican party and takes a keen pleasure in studying public affairs and the best interests of the community.

On December 16, 1896, Mr. Harms took as his bride Miss Mary Johnson, who is a native of Cerro Gordo county, having been born in Mason township, December 7, 1878. She is a daughter of Peter and Augusta (Groluf) Johnson, both natives of Germany and now residing in Bath township. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have been residents of Cerro Gordo county for over thirty years. Two children are growing up under the roof of Mr. and Mrs. Harms, these being a daughter and a son, Selena and Lyle H.

LAVINIUS ALEXANDER PRESCOTT.

Lavinus Alexander Prescott, a farmer and property owner of Cerro Gordo county, has spent the greater part of his life within its boundaries, having come in 1876 with his father. He owns one hundred and sixty acres in sections 10 and 15 in Grimes township, and rents the northeast quarter of section 9, thus having under operation three hundred and twenty acres, not to mention fifty-five elsewhere located. In addition to his general farming he raises stock. Mr. Prescott was born in Clinton township, DeKalb county,

Illinois, in 1857, and is the son of Henry and Esther (McNish) Prescott. Upon coming here in 1876 they secured land in section 35, Grimes township. They were very isolated, the nearest town and market being Sheffield, Franklin county, and the nearest neighbor five miles away. The father ploughed the unbroken prairie and generally improved his land and there made his home until the fall of 1884, when he removed to another eighty acres, the north half of the northeast quarter of section 35. He paid three hundred dollars for it and it is now worth six thousand dollars. The father, a native of Vermont, lived previous to his coming to the county in Illinois, and then in Marble Rock, Floyd county, Iowa, securing near the latter place a two hundred acre farm. He died August 22, 1894, on the Cerro Gordo county homestead, at the age of sixty-five years. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity, a stanch Republican, serving as assessor, and he and his family were members of the Baptist church at Marble Rock, Floyd county. The mother is now aged seventy-four and makes her home in Lake Andes, Charles Mix county, South Dakota. There were four children besides Mr. Prescott. Ashel H. resides in South Dakota; Jesse D. is in Cerro Gordo county; Henrietta Jane married Oscar Rickard, and died October 14, 1893, in Boone county, Iowa; Owen Melvin died March 15, 1885, at the age of nineteen years.

Since the age of three Mr. Prescott has been an Iowan. He received a common school education and early decided to follow the vocation of his father. In addition to his general farming he has been an extensive stock-raiser. He subscribes to the policies and principles of the Republican party and gives an intelligent consideration to affairs of public moment. He served as constable at one time.

On May 13, 1878, in the Methodist church of Mason City, Mr. Prescott was united in marriage to Inez Mary, daughter of Abraham Rickard, who came to Iowa about 1850. He lived in Davenport and at Cedar Rapids, and it was in Harrison county that Mrs. Prescott was born. Her first husband was William Medley, an early resident of Iowa, and who now resides in Oregon, and there are two children by this former union, Ida May and Mary Estella Medley.

GEORGE STEINER.

George Steiner, who owns a well-cultivated farm in section 17, Portland township, Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, carries on his work according to modern methods and has up-to-date equipment for

doing his work. Mr. Steiner was born in Dane county, Wisconsin, December 18, 1857, son of Nicholas and Dorothea (Schultheis) Steiner, both natives of Germany. Nicholas Steiner was born in 1823 and died in 1869, and his wife, who was born February 15, 1827, died at Mason City, February 24, 1898. Of their three children two are living, namely: Lydia, who married F. Uphoff and is living in Wisconsin, and George. After the death of Nicholas Steiner his widow married Albert Schlosser, who was born April 28, 1824, and died August 12, 1900, at Mason City, Iowa. She had no children by her second marriage. In 1884 Mr. Schlosser and his wife moved to Cerro Gordo county, locating on a farm in section 18, Portland township, where they lived until 1890, and then removed to Mason City.

George Steiner was reared on a farm and received a good common school education. He helped with the work on the farm as soon as old enough. He came to Iowa with the family in 1884 and located at Nora Springs, where for one year he conducted a meat market. In the spring of 1886 Mr. Steiner purchased the farm where he now lives. He has one hundred and sixty acres and has devoted himself to developing a fine farm. At the time of its purchase this land was unimproved and he has set out the trees on his property. He takes great pride in his achievements and is considered a representative, useful citizen. In politics he is a Republican, and he and his wife are members of the Evangelical church at Nora Springs.

On March 3, 1877, Mr. Steiner married Lydia Schlosser, who was born in Marquette county, Wisconsin, October 8, 1854, daughter of Albert and Catherine (Niess) Schlosser, the father born in Wurtemberg, Germany, April 28, 1824, and came to the United States in 1846, locating in Wisconsin, where his first wife died in 1861. He married for his second wife Mr. Steiner's mother, as already mentioned. Mr. Steiner and his wife have no children of their own, but are fond of children, and have reared two: Mary, wife of Guy Rader, of Nora Springs, and Raymond Cooley, still living with his foster parents. Mr. Steiner and his wife stand well in their neighborhood and have many friends.

DANIEL BRINK.

Daniel Brink, a well known farmer of Pleasant Valley township, was born in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, in 1850. His parents were William and Leah (Ponst) Brink, both natives of Pennsylvania, where the maternal grandfather had also been born.

The paternal grandfather was a native of Delaware. Mr. Brink's father was a farmer and lived all his life in his native state, his demise occurring in 1906, when he was about eighty-six years of age. The mother died in 1880, aged about fifty-seven years. There are two sisters also, both of them making their home in Pennsylvania.

Daniel Brink received his education in the public schools of Pennsylvania and upon his father's farm gained much practical experience in the various departments of agriculture. His first independent venture at farming was in Pennsylvania, and he afterward removed to DeKalb county, Illinois, locating near Genoa, where he purchased land. He was fortunate enough to sell it at an advance and invested in his present farm in Pleasant Valley township in the year 1894. He owns one hundred and sixty acres of well improved land, and the house occupied by him he rebuilt after coming here. Mr. Brink is interested in the trend of public events and gives his political allegiance to the Democratic party. He holds membership in the Modern Woodmen of America and his wife was a member of the Baptist church.

Mr. Brink was married in Pennsylvania in 1880 to Miss Mora Parks, a native of Pennsylvania. Her parents were of the agricultural class and were old residents of the state. Several brothers are now living in Iowa. Mrs. Brink died in 1895, at the age of thirty-seven years, leaving six children, namely: Frank, of Sioux City, chief clerk in the engineering department of the Chicago & Northwestern Railway; Charles, of Pierre, South Dakota, fireman on the Chicago & Northwestern Railway; Jasper, at home; Della, wife of Theodore Eddy, residing in Mt. Vernon township, this county; Ira, living in California and in the employ of the Diamond Match Company; and Mary, at home. Mr. Brink's postoffice is Swaledale, R. F. D. No. 1.

J. L. JAMES.

J. L. James, cashier of the First National Bank of Thornton and owner of one of the model farms of Cerro Gordo county, was born in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, March 8, 1859. His parents, Richard T. and Mary (Combellick) James, are both natives of England. The father emigrated to the "land of promise" when a young man and secured employment in the lead mines in Jo Daviess county. After his marriage he farmed for a time in that section and in April, 1881, he removed to Franklin county, Iowa, where he purchased land near Sheffield and engaged in its improve-

ment and cultivation. He died on the homestead in 1882, at the age of fifty-seven years, and the mother, who was born October 25, 1833, is still living in Sheffield. Mr. James is one of a family of nine children, the following seven of whom are living: Henrietta, wife of Reuben Atkinson of Sheffield; Mr. James, of this review; Clara, wife of C. B. Wilt, of Savannah, Illinois; May, wife of Harvey Bowen, of Brookhaven, Mississippi; Eva, wife of George Benzler of Britt, Iowa; Ella, who is at home; and Edgar, a resident of Franklin county, Iowa.

J. L. James passed his boyhood days upon the farm in Jo Daviess county owned by his father. He spent the usual number of hours in the school room, and when his parents came to Franklin county he came with them. In 1886 he rented a farm and started in as the author of his own fortunes. In 1891 he removed to Cerro Gordo county and purchased the east half of section 36, which at that time was raw prairie. He broke the land, erected commodious buildings, set out trees and otherwise improved it until today he possesses one of the most attractive, productive and valuable farms in all the extent of Cerro Gordo county. His property consists of about four hundred and eighty acres.

On August 28, 1906, the First National Bank of Thornton came into existence and in the following month Mr. James began his duties as cashier. He still holds this position, while at the same time operating his farm, in which latter he is ably assisted by his sons. He votes the Republican ticket and has given efficient public service—fifteen years as secretary of the school board; ten years as township clerk; and two terms as assessor. He is a valuable member of the Methodist church at Thornton and acts as its steward and trustee.

On February 10, 1886, Miss Martha Farnham became the wife of Mr. James. Mrs. James is a native of Lafayette county, Wisconsin, where she was born December 15, 1864. To this union have been born eight children: Raymond L. and Stella reside at Mason City; Paul is at Sioux City, Iowa; and Richard, John W., Esther, Ruth and David are at home.

WILLIAM F. HENKEL.

William F. Henkel, of the firm of Henkel & Bruns, general contractors and builders, Mason City, Iowa, has been identified with this place for a period of twenty years and has contributed materially to its growth and development.

Mr. Henkel was born in Germany in 1871, and was reared and

educated and learned the trade of mason there. In 1889, at the age of eighteen, he left his home in the old country to try his fortunes in America, and on landing in this country went to Wisconsin, where he spent one year. Then he came to Mason City, Iowa, which has since been his home and where he has established himself in a prosperous business and accumulated some valuable property. His own handsome residence is at 703 East Huntley street. For seven years he has been associated in business with George Bruns, under the name of Henkel & Bruns, Mr. Bruns having worked with him for five years previous to the formation of this partnership. Besides many fine homes in the city they built the Decker Packing plant, the St. Joseph's Catholic church, the E. B. Higley block, and the Harding & Farrell building, the last named now being occupied by the Cobb Furniture Company. Also as cement sidewalk contractors they do a large business. They furnish employment to from fifteen to twenty men, many of them skilled mechanics.

Mr. Henkel is married and has two children, Carl and Leona, aged fifteen and fourteen years respectively. Mrs. Henkel, formerly Miss Ida Lehmann, was born and reared in Mason City, daughter of E. Lehmann, one of the old residents of the town.

Politically Mr. Henkel has always maintained an independent attitude, preferring to vote for men and measures rather than confine himself to any one party. Socially he is identified with the M. W. A. and B. P. O. E. He and his family are members of the German Lutheran church.

JOHN SHANKS.

John Shanks, an enterprising and industrious farmer of Portland township, Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, has put all modern improvements on his three hundred and twenty acre farm and has brought his land to a high state of cultivation. Mr. Shanks was born in Chicago, Illinois, August 29, 1852, a son of John and Helen (Sharp) Shanks, both natives of Scotland. John Shanks Sr. was born near Glasgow, March 28, 1828, and is now living in California. He came to the United States in 1849, at the age of twenty-one years, and located in Chicago, where he lived some time after his marriage. In 1862 he moved to Elgin, Illinois, where he engaged in mercantile business, conducting a store there and at Dundee until 1869, when he sold out and moved to Iowa, crossing the Mississippi at Dubuque and being taken over the ice in an old stage. He located in Waterloo and conducted a general store there for three years, then purchased a farm in Black Hawk county, where he lived

many years. Helen Sharp was born in 1838 and died in 1860, having borne her husband children as follows: John; Jennie, wife of James Thompson, of Nora Springs, Iowa; Joseph K., of Nora Springs; R. S. and George P., of California. Mrs. Shanks came to the United States at the age of nineteen years. After her death Mr. Shanks married Mary Creighton, also a native of Scotland, and to this marriage nine children were born, of whom six survive, namely: William and James, of California; Mrs. Nettie Coleman, of Chicago; Joseph, of Idaho; Grace and Ethel, of California. In 1893 Mr. Shanks and his wife moved to Pomona, California, where he owns land and has an orange grove.

The boyhood of John Shanks Jr. was spent in Chicago and Elgin, Illinois, and Waterloo, Iowa, and he received a common school education, working in his father's store when old enough to be of assistance. When the family moved to Black Hawk county, Iowa, he helped on the farm until his marriage, then rented a farm and began on his own account. In 1880 he moved to Cerro Gordo county, where he rented land fifteen years, then purchased his present farm, which he has improved in many ways. He has erected modern buildings and is successful in his operations. He has made a specialty of raising and feeding stock and is considered one of the leading farmers of the community. He is actively interested in public affairs, is a Republican in politics and served four years as school director. He and his wife have many friends and stand high in the estimation of their neighbors.

On March 5, 1879, Mr. Shanks married Mary O. Whitney, born in Ogle county, Illinois, May 14, 1861, daughter of Alanson and Delinay (Young) Whitney. Mr. Whitney was born in Prescott, Canada, and his wife was also a native of Canada, he born November 13, 1830, and she March 14, 1838. She died September 22, 1909, and he now lives at Shell Rock, Iowa. They moved from Canada to Ogle county, Illinois, in 1858 and about seven years later moved to Black Hawk county, Iowa. Mrs. Shanks is the oldest of their nine children, all of whom are living, namely: Mrs. Shanks, Mrs. Elizabeth Harmon, of Joplin, Missouri; C. A., of Quinby, Iowa; Mrs. Bertha Scholmer, of Glenwood Springs, Colorado; Mrs. Cynthia Richards, of Shell Rock, Iowa; S. B. and C. N., of Waverly Iowa; Rosco, of Janesville, Iowa; and Buren, of El Paso, Texas. Children as follows have blessed the union of Mr. Shanks and his wife: John A., of Portland township; Mabel H., wife of Carroll Chapman, of Nora Springs, Iowa; Arthur L. of Nora Springs; Olive May, at home; Charles R., of Nora Springs; and Ray W. and Kenneth S., at home.

ARCHIE W. HARROUN.

Archie W. Harroun, of 314 West Eighth Street, Mason City, Iowa, has for eighteen years been engaged in the railway mail service on the line between Dubuque and Sanborn, with headquarters at Dubuque.

While a native of Minnesota, born in 1869, Mr. Harroun has made Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, his home since 1875, when he came here with his parents, John and Lydia (Greenlee) Harroun, natives of Crawford county, Pennsylvania. Early in life John Harroun and wife left the "Keystone state" and came west to Minnesota, settling near Rochester long before that city was started. There for a number of years and later in Portland township, Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, he successfully carried on farming operations, and he died at his home in the last named place in 1899, at the age of seventy-one years. He served in various local offices, such as justice of the peace, school director, etc., and was an officer in a creamery company. Both he and his wife were members of the Christadelphian church. She died in 1902, at the age of sixty-seven years. In their family of five children, Archie W. was the fourth born, the others being Park B., of Austin, Minnesota; Miss Alma E., bookkeeper for the Damon-Igou Company, in which she is a stockholder; L. Laville, wife of Frank Miller, a merchant and one of the aldermen of Mason City; and Miss Carrie.

Archie W. Harroun previous to his entering the railway mail service attended normal school at Algona, Iowa, and taught one term of country school. He is married and has one child, Margaret, born February 1, 1910. Mrs. Harroun, formerly Miss Jessie Stevens, is a daughter of Charles J. Stevens, a resident of Mason City and an engineer on the C. M. & St. P. Railroad.

Politically Mr. Harroun is what may be termed an Independent Republican. In religion he firmly maintains the views held by his parents and is a member of the same church. Mrs. Harroun is a Methodist.

THOMAS PERRETT.

Thomas Perrett, whose death occurred in Rock Falls, Iowa, May 13, 1889, is still well remembered by those who knew and cared for him, and his presence has been sadly missed from many circles. Mr. Perrett was born in Stogursey Parish, Somersetshire, England, May 27, 1827, the fourth child and oldest son of Thomas Perrett and his wife, Ann Rawlings Perrett. When the boy was eighteen

years of age his father died. His parents were well-to-do and sent him to school at Minehead, where he received a liberal education. On November 1, 1854, he sailed from Liverpool for New York, where he landed on November 10, the boat making one of the swiftest voyages of the times. He proceeded directly to Chicago, where he met a younger brother, J. C. Perrett, who was a sailor on the great lakes and had been a resident of Chicago two years. Thomas had left his youngest brother, William to manage the farm and care for his mother and sisters. His cousin, Joseph Perrett, was also a sailor on the great lakes, having come to the United States in the spring of 1854. These three young men moved to Iowa, spending the winter in Delaware and Dubuque counties and assisting in the survey in the town of Manchester. In the spring of 1855 J. C. and Joseph Perrett returned to the lakes and Thomas went to Falls township, Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, walking a good part of the way and making part of the journey by stage. He was looking for a location near a stream where timber could be easily obtained, as wood and water were then very essential for a farm, and found what he considered a suitable place to settle, along the Shell Rock river in Falls township. He entered three eighty acre tracts in section 27, one of these being for his brother J. C. and one for his cousin Joseph. He also purchased eighty acres of timber land in section 16. He made the trip to Des Moines on foot to make these entries of land. The first summer he worked for A. J. Glover and helped erect a saw-mill. During the winter of 1855-56 he was joined by his brother and cousin and they spent the winter in a little log cabin built on the edge of the timber in section 16. As all were unmarried this home was called "Bachelor's Retreat," and the next winter they spent in a similar manner.

In the spring of 1857 Thomas Perrett erected a log house on his own eighty acres of land, on the banks of Shell Rock river, in section 27, where John Cortes and his wife lived with him and kept house for him until his marriage. At Christmas time, in 1858, Thomas Perrett met his brother and a cousin in Chicago and together they visited cousins in Grass Lake, Illinois, and Thomas and his cousin there met their future wives. Thomas Perrett was married on March 25, 1859, to Mary Jane Brown, second daughter of Thomas and Harriet (Newell-Jewett) Brown. They met and were married at Bradford, Iowa, Miss Brown coming with her sister and brother-in-law (Joseph Perrett) in a wagon. Thomas Perrett and his wife lived in the log house until 1871, when he erected a handsome stone house. Three daughters and one son

blessed their union, namely: Elizabeth; Harriet A.; Laura J., who died November 16, 1892; and Thomas Rawlings. Joseph Perrett and his wife also located on their farm, but in the fall of 1883 they moved to Rock Falls, and in 1897 moved to Mason City, where he died December 3, 1902. He spent the years of 1864-65-66 in Chicago, where he again engaged in sailing on the lakes, then settled on his farm. His wife, who was Sarah Hanford Brown, died March 4, 1905.

Thomas Perrett was a man of large, strong frame, also large hearted and broad minded, honest, upright, true and genuinely charitable. He held many township offices, and served many years as county supervisor. His health failed him in the spring of 1885, at which time he left his farm and built a house in the village of Rock Falls, where he remained until his death, May 13, 1889, living these few years retired from active life. His wife, who was born April 23, 1840, at Hampden, Ohio, died April 22, 1905. His youngest daughter, Laura J., who was born January 24, 1870, died November 16, 1892. The two older daughters, Elizabeth and Harriet, live in the village of Rock Falls in the old home. Both are graduates of Ames, class 1882, and both have taught for several years. Thomas R. also lives in Rock Falls, a stock dealer. He married Chloe M. Cochonour, and they have a daughter, Doris C.

The present generation have but a dim perception of the hardships and trials of pioneer life—what it meant to walk to Des Moines and enter land, after having settled upon same to be obliged to go with an ox team to Dyersville for the winter supply of provisions, thinly clad, the weather at zero, and with the fear of encountering one of the severe blizzards. Thomas Perrett never shirked his duty, whether public or private, and contributed his share to developing the country. He was a charter member of the Masonic lodge organized at Mason City, also of Benevolence Chapter. At the time of his death he owned four hundred and fifty acres of land in Falls township.

O. B. THOMPSON.

O. B. Thompson, a resident of Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, since 1855, and for the past nine years of Mason City, occupies the pleasant and commodious home he built on West First street. Recently he sold his fine farm of two hundred acres in Mason township, which was the family home from 1861 for a period of forty years. The orchard he planted on this farm was the first one

planted in the vicinity, and he has always maintained a deep interest in horticulture in connection with his agricultural pursuits, in both of which he has been very successful.

Mr. Thompson was born in Cheshire county, New Hampshire, June 11, 1839, son of Benjamin and Lucina (Gibbs) Thompson, both born and reared there, as were their parents before them, both families being of English origin. His father died in the prime of early manhood; his mother lived to a ripe old age. After the death of his father Mr. Thompson, acting on the advice of an uncle, Silas Card, a pioneer of Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, came west, accompanied by his two brothers, Orrin and Adelbert M. That was in 1855. All three entered land here, at the rate of one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre, and all engaged in farming. Adelbert M. died about six years ago in California. Orrin died in 1908 in Mason City. O. B. Thompson after spending a few years in Mason City and Nora Springs, where he worked in a store, married and settled down on his farm, beginning with practically no capital but soon winning his way to a comfortable competency.

Mrs. Thompson, formerly Miss Emma Adams, was born October 6, 1839, in Worcester, Massachusetts. In 1851 she came as far west as Rockford, Illinois, and four years later she came to Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, which has since been her home. Here she met and in 1861 became the wife of O. B. Thompson. She is a sister of Mr. Charles M. Adams, of whom personal mention is made elsewhere in this work. To Mr. and Mrs. Thompson have been given two sons and two daughters, namely: Ella L., wife of D. M. Dean, of Harlan, Iowa, died in January, 1910, at the age of forty-seven, leaving a little daughter, Shirley; Charles B., a farmer residing in Mason City, married Miss Nettie Gillett, and has ten children; Jennie E. died on the home farm in 1892, at the age of twenty years; and Shirley C., of Ames, Iowa, is engaged in the theatrical business.

Politically Mr. Thompson has always been a Republican and at different times has filled various local offices. In their church relation Mrs. Thompson belongs to the Congregational and the children of the Christian church.

ROBERT B. McCUMBER.

On the roll of Cerro Gordo county's substantial and respected citizens must be placed the name of Robert B. McCumber, a fruit gardener, who has brought to his vocation a particularly enlightened

and up-to-date knowledge of its possibilities. He has achieved results which have brought him into gratifying prominence among his brethren in this line and has added his quota to the sum of the county's prosperity. Mr. McCumber is a native of Illinois, his birth having occurred in Crete in that state April 2, 1846. His parents were Orlin McCumber and Annie (Fuller) McCumber, the father being a native of Cattaraugus county, New York. He went to Illinois and later to Minnesota. In 1856 he moved to Rochester, Minnesota, where he lived out the greater part of his life and died June 12, 1888, at the age of seventy-two years. The mother was a Pennsylvania, the date of her birth being September 20, 1828, and that of her death, April 2, 1900. Mr. McCumber was one of eleven children, six of whom survive. A prominent member of the family is the brother J. P. McCumber, who is at the present time and for the past twelve years has been United States senator of North Dakota, his home being in Wahpeton in that state.

There fell to the lot of Mr. McCumber that which is often the wonder and envy of the younger generation, a taste of pioneer life. In 1856, when he was about ten years of age, his father, who was then living in Illinois, loaded the family and certain household effects into a covered wagon drawn by oxen and set forth for Olmstead county, Minnesota, the trip requiring about thirty days. Rochester, near which the father set his stakes, consisted then of three log houses, and the country about was wild and uncultivated in the extreme. The father purchased government land, paying for it at the rate of a dollar and a quarter an acre, and here he lived until his death, partaking in full measure of the terrors and adventures of the border settler, among the most unpleasant being a bloody Indian massacre when the Little Crow Indians went on the war path.

In Minnesota Mr. McCumber grew to young manhood, lending a shoulder wherever it was needed, attending the district school when he could find the time, and gaining an all-round education in the practical school of the American pioneer. Too young to enlist at the beginning of the Civil war, he was unable to content himself with peaceful pursuits at this time of conflict, and February 18, 1864, he enlisted in Company C of the Ninth Minnesota Regiment. He was discharged at the close of the war and returned home. From his boyhood he had been interested in stock buying and for a number of years he engaged in this pursuit. In 1880 he left Minnesota and came on to Clear Lake, where he became the proprietor of a meat market and engaged in stock buying. In 1888, on account of ill health, he sold out this

business and for the following twelve years was care taker at Dodge's Point. In 1900 he purchased the tract of ten acres which is the present scene of his activities. This he cleared of timber and brush and set it out with fruit, his success having been gratifying in the extreme. In addition to his fruit growing he makes a wholesale business of the raising of Rhode Island Red chickens.

Mr. McCumber is an enthusiastic Grand Army man, being a member of the Tom Howard post at Clear Lake, which he assisted in organizing a number of years ago. Because of certain disabilities dating from his Civil war experience, Mr. McCumber draws a special pension of fifty dollars a month. He gives an unwavering allegiance to the tenets of Republicanism and has that interest in public affairs which characterizes every broad-minded man. His wife is a member of the Lutheran church and gives an active support to its good causes.

On October 8, 1868, Mr. McCumber laid the foundations of a happy home by his marriage to Miss Caroline Thomsen, who was born in Bergen, Norway, November 6, 1839. Five children were born to this marriage, two daughters surviving, Media, wife of Cyrus Brayton of Union township, and Effie, wife of Fred Barnes of Wahpeton, North Dakota. Three daughters are buried at Clear Lake, Iowa: Mrs. Julia Calanan, Mrs. Annie Sprague and Mrs. Elsie Collins, who died of tuberculosis.

WILLIAM H. HATHORN.

Cerro Gordo has represented the home of William H. Hathorn from the time of his infancy and he is a member of one of the well known and highly esteemed families of this county, where his father took up his abode in the year 1879, and during the intervening years the name has stood not less significant of loyal and worthy citizenship than it has of splendid mechanical ability. He whose name initiates this article is secretary and treasurer of the Hathorn Automobile Company, of Mason City, and his elder brother, Charles E., is president of the company, of which they also constitute the board of directors. A brief sketch of the concern appears on other pages of this work, as does also a review of the career of the president of the company.

William Henry Hathorn was born in Rock county, Wisconsin, on the 30th of January, 1881, and was an infant at the time of the family removal to the former home in Cerro Gordo county, Iowa. He is a son of Henry W. and Emma L. (Jones) Hathorn, the former of whom was born in Rock county, Wisconsin, in 1856, and

the latter in Ohio, their marriage having been solemnized in Wisconsin, to which state the parents of Mrs. Hathorn removed when she was a child. Henry W. Hathorn was reared and educated in his native state, and there he learned the trades of both carpenter and blacksmith. In 1879 he removed with his family to Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, making the overland trip with a team and covered wagon, and he located a short distance north of Clear Lake, where he erected a blacksmith shop, which served as the family abiding place until the completion of the regular dwelling house. Henry W. Hathorn successfully conducted his shop and also operated his farm, but finally he returned to Janesville, Wisconsin, in which city the subject of this sketch was born. In 1882 the family returned from Wisconsin to the home farm near Clear Lake, and there the father continued to reside until 1890, when he took up his residence in Mason City, where he founded and conducted a successful business, under the title of the Hathorn Foundry & Machine Company. With this substantial enterprise he continued to be actively identified until 1904, and it is now conducted under the title of the Vulcan Iron Works. In the year last mentioned Mr. Hathorn disposed of the business and removed to Grinnell, this state, whence he later went to the city of Chicago, and finally he removed from the great western metropolis to Rochester, New York, where he and his wife now maintain their home. There he is engaged in the manufacturing of a trip-hammer that was invented and patented by him and that has found a ready demand not only throughout the United States but also in foreign countries, owing to its superiority over the types formerly used. He has fine mechanical and inventive ability, and among a number of his valuable inventions may be mentioned a loop and strap for felt boots and the "Jumbo" windmill. His present industrial enterprise is conducted upon an extensive scale and is proving a splendid success. Henry W. Hathorn is a Republican in his political allegiance, is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America, and both he and his wife are zealous members of the Baptist church, in which he was, for a number of years, superintendent of the Sunday school at Clear Lake, this county. Besides the two sons individually mentioned in this work there are two other sons and two daughters—Oliver L., who is identified with business interests in Mason City; Frank O., who is associated with his father's business in Rochester, New York; Cora G., who is a student in Rochester University; and Rose H., who is attending the public schools in Rochester.

William H. Hathorn gained his early education in the public

schools of Cerro Gordo county, and his special aptitude as a youth is shown in that when but fourteen years of age he learned stenography and bookkeeping, in both of which lines he became proficient. From 1895 to 1897, inclusive, he was employed as stenographer and clerk in the law office of Cliggitt & Rule, of Mason City, after which he attended school here for a period of eight months, within which he covered two and one-half years of high school work. After leaving school he secured a position in the office of the construction engineer of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad, in which connection he was employed about eight months, during the construction of the line from Belle Plaine, Iowa, to Blue Earth, Minnesota. He next assumed charge of the office business of the Hathorn Foundry & Machine Company, in Mason City, and he continued to serve in this capacity until his father sold the business in 1904. Thereafter he was assistant manager of the Bickel Produce Company, of Mason City, until the spring of the following year, when he returned to the law office of Cliggitt, Rule & Keeler, where he remained until September, 1906, when he became associated with his brother Charles E. in the organization and incorporation of the Hathorn Automobile Company, concerning which adequate mention is made elsewhere in this volume. Mr. Hathorn is known as one of the wide-awake and progressive young business men of Mason City, and in his character and activities he is well upholding the high prestige of the name which he bears. He is a Republican in his political proclivities, is affiliated with the local organizations of the Knights of Pythias and Modern Woodmen of America, and both he and his wife hold membership in the Baptist church.

On the 16th of June, 1903, Mr. Hathorn was united in marriage to Miss Daisy I. Brown, who was born and reared in Cerro Gordo county and who is a daughter of Andrew C. Brown, a representative horse dealer of this county, where his father, the late John G. Brown, took up his residence in the early pioneer epoch. Mr. and Mrs. Hathorn have one son, William Brown Hathorn, who was born on the 1st of January, 1910, and who thus proved a royal and welcome New Year's guest in the pleasant home.

CHARLES E. HATHORN.

The president of the Hathorn Automobile Company, of Mason City, is recognized as one of the representative business men and sterling citizens of his native county, and his technical ability, fine initiative, constructive powers and progressive ideas have been the

agencies through which he has pushed forward to the goal of worthy success. Concerning the company of which he is executive head specific description is given on other pages of this work, and in the sketch of the career of his brother, William H. Hathorn, who is secretary and treasurer of the company mentioned, is given due record concerning their parents, so that it is not necessary to repeat the data in the present connection.

Charles Edward Hathorn was born on the home farm near Clear Lake, Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, on the 6th of December, 1879, and in this county he has since maintained his home save for a period of about three years, during which the family resided at his father's old home in Rock county, Wisconsin. Mr. Hathorn duly availed himself of the advantages of the public schools and his inherent mechanical talent was fostered from his boyhood days, as he early began to assist in the work of his father's blacksmith shop, where he gained much facility in mechanical work, having been literally reared in the business. When his father established the Hathorn Foundry Machine Company in Mason City he identified himself with the practical work and also the executive management of the business, and he was superintendent of the shops for several years. When about twenty-two years of age, for the purpose of gaining further experience, he was employed for a time as a locomotive fireman on the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad. After quitting railroad service he was engaged as superintendent of construction for the Invincible Bank Protection Company for a period of about two and one-half years. The headquarters of the concern were later removed from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to Wisconsin. Mr. Hathorn's next position was that of superintendent of the repair shop of the Mason Carriage Works, at Davenport, Iowa, and here he gained most thorough experience in automobile repair work—a knowledge that has proved of inestimable value to him in connection with the business of the company of which he is now president. He is a careful and conservative business man and a citizen well worthy of the high regard in which he is held in his native county. His political views are indicated by the sturdy way in which he marches under the banner of the Republican party, and in his home city he is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Brotherhood of America. Mr. Hathorn is a bachelor.

THE HATHORN AUTOMOBILE COMPANY.

Under this title is conducted in Mason City an enterprise that is one of the most important of its kind in northern Iowa, and the

shops of the company have the best of modern equipment for the executing of all kinds of repairs on automobiles. The establishment includes the repair department, a well equipped garage and automobile livery, and also storage facilities of adequate order. The headquarters of the company are located at the corner of Fifth and Washington streets. The company was incorporated on the 15th of September, 1906, and its officers are Charles E. Hathorn, president, and William H. Hathorn, secretary and treasurer. These two executives also comprise the board of directors. The company represent a number of the leading automobile concerns of the country, and are agents for the sale of the Stevens-Duryea, the E. M. F., the Flanders, and the Chalmers cars. In the summer season employment is given to a corps of about ten men, and the business is of substantial order throughout the entire year. The two brothers who are the interested principals are numbered among the valued and representative business men of Mason City, and concerning them individual mention is made on other pages of this work.

HENRY KEERL

Worthy of a high tribute of honor as one of the sterling pioneers, successful business men and efficient public officials of Cerro Gordo county is Henry Keerl, who died at his home in Mason City on the 27th of December, 1906. He maintained his home in this state for nearly half a century, and honored it by his services as a leal and loyal soldier of the Union in the Civil war as well as by his worthy endeavors as a citizen of prominence and influence. He was incumbent of the office of postmaster of Mason City for a period of seven years and he also served one term as county recorder. He made his life count for good in all its relations and no citizen was held in higher confidence and esteem in the community than he.

Henry Keerl was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, on the 14th of December, 1836, and two years later his parents moved to Charleston, West Virginia, which state was then an integral portion of Virginia. At Charleston he was afforded the advantages of the public schools and there was reared to years of maturity. In 1858 Mr. Keerl came to Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, where he became associated in the operation of a saw mill conducted by his uncle, Samuel Douglas, and Elisha Randall. He continued to be actively identified with local interests until August, 1862, when he enlisted as a private in Company B, Thirty-second Iowa Volunteer



W. H. Smith

Infantry, with which he continued in service until the close of the war. For the first eighteen months his service was mostly that in connection with garrison duty, and after having served six months he was granted a furlough on account of impaired health. Within this period his marriage was solemnized. He finally rejoined his regiment at Fort Pillow, Tennessee, and in November, 1863, his young wife, in company with Mrs. Ella L. Huntley, visited the regiment at Columbus, Kentucky, where they remained until the following February, when the regiment proceeded down the river. The Thirty-second Iowa saw much arduous service and endured to the full the hardships incidental to a vigorous campaign. The command traveled a distance of nine thousand miles and covered five thousand miles on foot. Mr. Keerl participated in nine important battles besides several skirmishes and other minor engagements. He advanced to the office of first lieutenant and after the battle of Pleasant Hill, Louisiana, he was the only officer of his company left to respond to the roll, his life having been saved by his water canteen, which deflected a bullet. He received his honorable discharge at the close of the war, after having made a record for gallant and faithful service as a soldier of the Republic. Upon his return to Cerro Gordo county he turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, with which he was actively identified until his election to the office of county recorder, when he established his home in Mason City, where he passed the residue of his life. He held the office mentioned for one term and thereafter conducted a successful enterprise for several years as buyer and shipper of grain. Later he served two terms as postmaster of Mason City, three years under the administration of President Arthur and four years under that of President Harrison. He was a stanch supporter of the policies and principles of the Republican party, was affiliated with the Grand Army of the Republic and as a citizen he wielded much influence in public affairs of a local order. In the matter of religious faith he was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

On the 28th of May, 1863, Mr. Keerl was united in marriage to Miss Luxena Randall of Mason City, the third daughter of Elisha Randall, a review of whose life follows this. Mrs. Keerl was born January 17, 1847. She was reared in Edmeson, in the state of New York, and was about eight years of age at the time of the family removal to Iowa. This worthy lady is still living, hale and hearty, and is a member of the Methodist church. To Mr. and Mrs. Keerl were born three children. Irving is represented on other pages of this work. Letty Ellen is a graduate of the State

Normal School of Iowa, and she was formerly an instructor of music in the National Memorial University of Mason City, Iowa. She has just finished a special course in the American Institute of Normal Methods of Music and Voice Culture in the Northwestern University of Chicago and she has supervision of work in the public schools of Twin Falls, Idaho. Harry Douglas is a civil engineer, his home being in Clear Lake. He was educated at Madison, Wisconsin, and married Miss Maude Dicken of Shell Rock, Iowa. He is a self educated man and very successful in his line.

IRVING W. KEERL.

A scion of one of the pioneer families of Cerro Gordo, Irving W. Keerl, able and popular cashier of Iowa State Bank of Mason City, has passed his entire life thus far in this county, where it has been his to gain a position of prominence and influence in connection with business and civic affairs and where he holds a secure place in the esteem and confidence of the community. He was born on a farm in Mason township, about one mile south of Mason City, on the 2nd of December, 1866, and as a memoir to his father, the late Henry Keerl, appears on other pages of this work it will not be necessary to repeat the data in the present sketch.

Irving W. Keerl was reared to maturity in Mason City, to whose public schools he is indebted for his early educational training. He left the high school when sixteen years of age and he forthwith initiated his associations with active business affairs, having held various positions, including that of clerk in the local post office under the administration of his father, who long served as postmaster of this city. In 1894 he became clerk of the courts of Cerro Gordo county, and in this responsible office he continued to serve for three consecutive terms of two years each. At the conclusion of this period, in 1900, he became associated with Nathan C. Kotchell, George W. Brett, D. W. Telford and William E. Brice in the organization of the Iowa State Bank of Mason City, which was duly incorporated with a capital of fifty thousand dollars. Of this institution he has been cashier since the beginning and concerning the bank special mention is made on other pages of this publication. Mr. Keerl has shown much discrimination and administrative ability as a financier and his influence has been potent in connection with the upbuilding of the position of the substantial and popular business with which he is thus identified. He is also an interested principal in other business enterprises of local order and is one of the aggressive business men and public spirited citizens



Elisha Randall

of his home city and county, where he ever lends his influence and co-operation in support of all measures taken for the general welfare of the community. He has been one of the most active members of the Mason City Commercial Club, of which he was the first secretary and of which he has also served as treasurer and president, of which latter office he was incumbent about two years.

The political allegiance of Mr. Keerl is given without reservation to the Republican party and he has been active and loyal as a worker in the local camp of the same. He was chairman of the Republican committee of Cerro Gordo county for several years and he is now a member of the state drainage board to which position he was appointed in 1909 by Governor Carroll. He is affiliated with the local organization of Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Modern Woodmen of America, Knights of Pythias, the Modern Brotherhood of America and others. On the 14th of June, 1893, Mr. Keerl was united to Miss Grace B. Matthews, who was born in Richland, Wisconsin, and came to Mason City in 1901. She is a daughter of J. C. and Delia Bancroft, who are now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Keerl have two children: Winston and Robert.

ELISHA RANDALL.

Elisha Randall was born in Brookfield, Madison county, New York, on the 22nd of September, 1818, and was a son of Elisha and Betsy (Brown) Randall, the latter of whom was a descendant of Captain Daniel Brown, a member of the Society of Friends, who settled at Stonington, Connecticut, whence, in 1792, at the age of sixty-six years, he removed to Brookfield, New York, where he passed the residue of his life. Betsy Randall died on the 20th of April, 1839. Her husband was born at Petersburg, Rensselaer county, New York, and there their marriage was solemnized. He was a son of Joshua Randall. The latter's father was Benjamin Randall, the grandson of Matthew Randall. He was an influential citizen of Stonington, Connecticut.

Elisha Randall Jr., was reared and educated in the state of New York and there was employed in his father's mills until about 1840. On the 31st of October, 1838, he was united in marriage to Lucy M. York, daughter of John and Nancy York of Brookfield, New York. The wife was born on the 7th of December, 1821, and she is still living in Mason City, hale and hearty, at eighty-nine years of age. Of their ten children eight are still living. In 1844 they removed to Edmeston, Otsego county, New York, where Mr.

Randall conducted a grist mill and also manufactured hardware for the New York market until 1850, when he removed to Belmont, Allegany county, New York, where he was associated with his brother Adin in the conducting of a sash, door and blind factory until November, 1854, when he removed with his family to Iowa and located at Waterloo. In June of the following year he established his permanent residence at Mason City where, in association with Samuel Douglass of Benton county, this state, he erected a circular saw mill on Lime Creek, which was put into operation on the 31st of October of that year. Two years later they erected a grist mill with two runs of stones. In 1872 Mr. Randall obtained a patent for the Randall Lime Kiln, representing an improved process of manufacturing lime. In 1876 he sold his interest in the mill property to John T. Elder and in part payment for the same he took a farm two miles north of Mason City. He was originally a Whig in his political adherence and his first presidential vote was cast for General William Henry Harrison. He was a member of the first Republican convention held in Cerro Gordo county and was a very prominent factor in the local councils of the party. He served for a number of years as justice of the peace and after the formal organization of the county he served one term as county judge and one term as county recorder, besides which he was one of the first board of county supervisors, in which office he also served one term. He held various other offices of minor public trust was a director of the Central Iowa Railroad Company for two years and was otherwise prominently identified with the development and progress of his county and state. He and his wife were charter members of the First Methodist church of Mason City and he was the first superintendent of the Methodist Sunday School of Mason City.

IOWA STATE BANK OF MASON CITY.

Among the monetary institutions that have emphasized and held note-worthy influence in the financial stability and conservatism of Cerro Gordo county, a conspicuous place is occupied by the Iowa State Bank of Mason City, which conducts a general banking business and which is fortified by the able management and by the interposition of citizens of the highest reputation. This bank was organized under the laws of the state of Iowa in 1900, and those concerned in its founding were Irving W. Keerl, N. C. Kotchell, George W. Brett, Daniel W. Telford and William E. Brice. The bank was incorporated with a capital stock of fifty

thousand dollars and the personnel of its first executive corps was as here noted: George W. Brett, president; N. C. Kotchell, vice president; and Irving W. Keerl, cashier. The board of directors included these officers and also Messrs. Brice and Telford. The history of the bank has been one of consecutive growth and its business now is of the most substantial order. The present officers are as follows: N. C. Kotchell, president; Irving W. Keerl, cashier; and L. Oliver Stone, assistant cashier. Besides the president and cashier, the board of directors includes William E. Brice, M. J. Fitzpatrick, Earl Smith, Dr. William E. Long and W. H. Smith.

EDWARD J. SCHERF.

Notwithstanding the fact that he experienced the somewhat unusual fortune of birth, on June 24, 1847, in mid ocean, Edward J. Scherf cannot be called a man without a country. He may indeed be regarded as a representative of America and it has been given to him to serve the country in war and in peace. Mr. Scherf is of that stanch German stock whose assimilation is beneficial to any new country. His parents, Christian and Menia (Dingle) Scherf, were both natives of Saxony, and in 1847 they followed the example of so many of their friends and neighbors and decided to seek a new home beyond the seas. They were already the parents of three children and, as previously mentioned, Mr. Scherf's birth occurred en voyage on June 24.

The elder Scherf, who had been a woolen worker in his native land, soon after landing on American shores, went to Milwaukee, where he found a means of livelihood in railroad construction. The early days in the new country was saddened by the death of the mother, Edward Scherf being at the time of her demise but four months old. Of the four children of this first marriage two are still living, Mr. Scherf and Caroline, widow of Peter Adams of Ventura, Iowa. The father married again, the second wife being Mary Jacobs, who survived until 1900, her age at the time of her death being seventy-two years. This union also was blessed by the birth of four children, all of whom are living.

In 1856, when Mr. Scherf was about nine years of age, his father decided to remove to the country which he believed to possess greater and more wholesome opportunities for a family of growing children. To this end he purchased eighty acres of timber and rough land in Sauk county, Wisconsin, the tract being known as Baraboo Bluffs. This land was cleared and grubbed out and

brought to a state where cultivation became possible at the expenditure of great time and labor and like most boys similarly situated young Edward was called upon to take his share of the struggle with the wild country when he was yet a mere lad. Ten years later, in November, 1866, the father again resolved upon a new scene of endeavor, this time removing to Floyd county, Iowa. The journey from Wisconsin was made by wagon and the usual adventures of the pioneer were experienced. Again the father purchased an eighty acre tract of wild land, four miles west of Charles City, and again began the task of clearing and subduing the hitherto unbroken country. This he accomplished with the assistance of his sons and here he engaged successfully in the pursuit of agriculture until some little time previous to his death, when he removed to Ventura.

To Mr. Scherf's lot fell a full share of those hardships and privations which are ever the heritage of the pioneer. In Sauk county, when it was not yet necessary to use two figures in writing his age, the clearing of the rough land was left to him and his step-mother while the father eked out a by no means abundant living by hiring out by the day. The toil entrusted to him was so far beyond his years and strength that often at night time he found himself too tired to sleep and the dawn of a new day would find the "ravelled sleeve of care" still frayed and worn. But however hard this discipline may have seemed at the time it is doubtless true that it had its beneficial mission and that it assisted in building up a character which ultimately came to be distinguished for its strength and fearlessness. It is needless to say that there was little time left for the acquisition of an education, and Mr. Scherf enjoyed the advantages of but two winter terms of school. But all learning is by no means secured at a desk in a school room and Mr. Scherf, being naturally ambitious, has since by his own efforts done much to remedy this defect. When only thirteen years old he took up the work of teaming and hauled flour for sixteen months with three yoke of cattle from Baraboo to Kilbourne, Wisconsin, himself handling his ponderous commodity. In these journeys he drove a three and four yoke team of oxen.

Meanwhile the Civil war cloud which had been gathering for so many years burst in all its fury, and in February, 1863, Mr. Scherf enlisted in Company L of the Third Wisconsin Cavalry. He was but sixteen years of age and in order to be accepted forged the papers giving his father's consent. It is an almost pathetic commentary on the toilsome and rigorous life hitherto led by this youth that he looked upon the dangers and hardships of war with

positive eagerness, preferring them to his hard lot at home. He had intently observed the soldiers at Baraboo and he looked with envious eyes upon their leisure and the good times they seemed to be having. However, when he got into active service and heard the bullets whizzing about his head, and saw his comrades falling about him, he confesses that he many times wished that he was back in Wisconsin hauling flour. As soon as his father discovered the fact of his enlistment he made efforts to have him released on account of his being under age, but he was advised by a lawyer that on account of the papers having been forged it would doubtless be expedient to let the matter rest. And so it came to pass that Mr. Scherf served in the defense of the Union until the close of the war, being discharged at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, November 15, 1865. It has been given to few of our country's brave to have a more thrilling Civil war experience than to Mr. Scherf. Sixteen months of his service was spent on the frontier among the Indians. He by no means escaped unscathed, but was wounded three times, still bearing the scar of a saber cut across his head and on his hand and still carrying as a vivid memento a bullet which lodged between the thumb and fore-finger of his right hand.

Immediately after his discharge Mr. Scherf returned to Wisconsin, where he engaged for awhile in farming. In 1869 he married and the following year went to Floyd county, Iowa, whither his father had preceded him. For a year he made his livelihood as an employe of the Milwaukee railroad and from time to time assisted a brother-in-law and an uncle in their farming. In 1872 Mr. Scherf decided to try a hazard of new fortunes and with his wife set out in a wagon to Osceola county, Iowa. They had progressed as far on their journey as Mason City when the horse fell in trying to ford the stream and they were very nearly drowned. Discouraged by this serious mishap they returned to Floyd county, where they remained until the spring of 1873, when they removed to Cerro Gordo county. On December 19, Mr. and Mrs. Scherf located in Clear Lake township, where eighty acres of wild land had been purchased at a cost of three hundred and eighty dollars. The lumber for their first house, which was sixteen by twenty by eighteen feet in dimension, was purchased from Mr. W. C. Tompkins of Clear Lake at a cost of one hundred dollars. Mr. Scherf, who had no ready money at hand, was obliged to ask for credit and at that hauled the lumber from Clear Lake with a team of oxen. For nearly a year the little family lived in the unplastered barn but made of their humble abode as much of a home as a more magnificent dwelling could have been. In 1873 the resources be-

ing low, Mr. Scherf found it wise to secure employment upon the Milwaukee railroad in order to earn enough money to meet living expenses. Happily his fortunes steadily improved and in course of time he found himself in a position to purchase eighty additional acres at a cost of five hundred dollars. Prosperity, attracted by our subject's industry and good management, smiled upon him and he is now the possessor of much valuable land, two hundred and fifty acres in Clear Lake township and one hundred and eight acres in Grant township. His land is all highly improved and he has set out many trees. He is now retired and since 1900 has been enjoying at Ventura the fruits of his former industry. He enjoys several affiliations, among them membership in the Tom Howard Post of the G. A. R., at Clear Lake, and with his brother veterans lives over the exciting days of the war. He has given a life long allegiance to the Republican party. Mr. Scherf has always been a skillful and enthusiastic hunter and during his life has owned probably one hundred shot guns. When he becomes the possessor of a new gun he at once removes the stock and barrel lock and proceeds to make one to suit himself, carving the new part out of a walnut strip. Among his collection he has some very beautiful ones inlaid with mother-of-pearl and bone. For years he hunted for the market and has killed three hundred and fifty Mallard ducks in twenty-seven days. In his time he has killed and shipped many car loads of prairie chickens and still enjoys the sport.

On December 26, 1869, Mr. Scherf was united in marriage to Mary Hayes, who was born in Ohio in 1849. To this union has been born a family of nine children, as follows: William, of Clear Lake township; John, of Grant township; Frank, of Grant township; James, of Clear Lake township; Nellie, wife of Clarence Palmer of Lake township; Bert, of Clear Lake township; Edward, at home; Sadie, wife of George Harthan of Clear Lake township; and Milo, at home.

CHANNING E. DAKIN, M. D.

One of the leading physicians of Mason City, Iowa, is Dr. Channing E. Dakin, one of her native sons, his birth having occurred here July 8, 1876, his parents being Dr. James B. and Julia May (Church) Dakin, natives of Ohio and Pennsylvania, respectively. He laid the foundation of an excellent education in Mason City's public schools, being graduated from the high school with the class of 1891. He subsequently entered the University of Iowa, at Iowa City, finishing there in 1896 with the degree of Bachelor of Science.

Early in life he came to a decision to follow in the paternal footsteps in the matter of a vocation, and with this end in view he entered the Bennett Medical College in Chicago and obtained his degree with the class of 1899. After his graduation he further fortified himself for the work of his chosen profession by the position of interne in the Cook County Hospital in Chicago, in which institution he remained for about two years and in which he gained most valuable clinical experience. He then returned to his home in Mason City, and here he has been engaged in the active practice of his profession since January, 1901. He has won the confidence of all who have sought his professional services and he is generally recognized as one of the most reliable and enlightened of the local medical fraternity. He has successfully maintained the same high prestige gained by his honored father, the late Dr. James B. Dakin, to whom a memoir is dedicated on other pages of this work.

Dr. Dakin is affiliated with numerous of the organizations which have as their prime object the elevation and unification of the profession, among these being the American Medical Association; the Iowa State Medical Society; The Austin Flint-Cedar Valley Medical Society; and the Cerro Gordo County Medical Society. He is a particularly close student of his profession and keeps in touch with the advances made in both medicine and surgery. He served as health officer of Mason City in 1901-1906.

Politically Dr. Dakin gives his heart and hand to the principles of the Republican party and like all good citizens is interested in those matters which pertain to the general good of the community. He is a member of the board of trustees of the Carnegie Public Library of Mason City and fraternally he is identified with the local order of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

On the 6th of May, 1903, was solemnized the marriage of Dr. Dakin to Miss Norra Allin, daughter of T. B. Allin, a prominent citizen of Iowa City, and three children have blessed their union, named Allin, Shirley and Katherine. Mrs. Dakin is a member of the Twentieth Century Club.

WILLIAM BOHN.

The subject of this sketch is a fine type of the sturdy German-American farmer. Without financial backing, unacquainted with the language of the country, he landed here when a young man, and by his own hard work and perseverance made a home, earned a competency, and gained a place among the representative citizens of the community. Mr. Bohn has three hundred and twenty acres of fine land in Grant township, Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, where he has resided since the early '70s.

He was born in Prussia, Germany, October 26, 1839, son of Christopher and Christena (Marks) Bohn, and the only one now living of their family of three children. He was reared on a farm in his native country and received a common school education in his native tongue. Ambitious to see something of the world and better his condition, he decided to try his fortune in America, and on April 27, 1864, landed in New York city, with only fifteen dollars in his pocket. He spent some time at farm work in Minnesota, Wisconsin and McHenry county, Illinois, beginning with wages at sixteen dollars a month. In 1866 he came to Iowa and worked north out of Cedar Rapids, on the B. C. R. & N. Railroad. In 1869, employed on the Milwaukee road, he followed it to Mason City, Iowa, which point was reached in the fall of that year. The following year his parents joined him here. His father purchased one hundred and twenty acres in section 19, thirty acres of which had been broken and planted, and there was a log house on the place. For this farm he paid thirteen dollars and fifty cents an acre, including the crop. Here the parents passed the rest of their lives and died, the father dying at the age of eighty-two years, the mother at sixty-nine. When the farm was divided, William came into possession of eighty acres of it, to which he subsequently added until he now has three hundred and twenty acres. A snowball bush in his front yard is the only thing now growing here that had been planted before he came. All the other plantings and improvements on the place have been made by him, and, with the assistance of his sons, he continues to operate the farm.

In 1873 Mr. Bohn married Miss Augusta Bohn, like himself a native of Germany. She died in 1900, at the age of forty-eight years. Of the seven children born to them, we record that Clara, the eldest, is the wife of Albert Roenfanz, of Hancock county, Iowa; Helena wife of Albert Jass, also lives in Hancock county; Julius is a resident of Grant township, Cerro Gordo county, and Edward, Emma, Bertha and Herman are at home. The family are members of the German Lutheran church.

ANDREW W. STORER.

Cerro Gordo county is fortunate in having been settled by a remarkably industrious, enterprising, intelligent and prosperous class of people, prominent among the number having been the late Andrew W. Storer, for many years one of the foremost agriculturists of Pleasant Valley township. He was born January 15,



Andrew W. Storer

1851, in Dane county, Wisconsin, and died November 29, 1904, at Mason City, his death being regarded as a public loss to the community.

He was the son of Daniel and Eunice (Palmer) Storer, the former of whom, a venerable man of eighty-five years, is living in Dane county, Wisconsin, while the latter died in May, 1908, at the age of seventy-nine years. They were the parents of five children, as follows: Andrew W., the subject of this brief biographical sketch; Prescott; E. R., of Mitchell, South Dakota; Dr. W. D., of Chicago, Illinois; and Nettie, living with her aged father.

His parents settling near Madison, Wisconsin, when he was but four years old. Andrew W. Storer acquired his first knowledge of books in the district schools, subsequently attending the State University in Madison one year. In 1873, having previously taught school one term in Wisconsin, he came to Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, and having purchased one hundred and sixty acres of wild land in Pleasant Valley township began the improvement of a farm, for six years teaching school during the winter months. He met with good success in his labors, from time to time buying more land and acquiring title to seven hundred and twenty acres of rich and productive land in Cerro Gordo county and to a well improved farm near Brookings, South Dakota. Retiring from active pursuits in 1903, Mr. Storer removed with his family to Mason City, and was here a resident until his death. He was a steadfast Republican in politics, and had the distinction of being the first man to serve as road master in Pleasant Valley township, where he also held all other township offices.

Mr. Storer married, December 5, 1878, Etta Cannon, who was born in Columbia county, Wisconsin, March 9, 1858. Her father, Amaziah Cannon, was born in Chautauqua county, New York, September 21, 1819, moved with his family to Wisconsin in 1858, came to Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, in 1865, and here resided until his death, in February, 1881, in Mason township. Mrs. Cannon, whose maiden name was Cornelia Waite, was born in Chautauqua county, New York, January 16, 1823, and is now living in Mason township. To her and her husband three children were born, two of whom are living, as follows: Emeline, wife of Willis Dent, of Mason township; and Mrs. Storer. Although a child of seven years when she made the overland trip from Wisconsin to Iowa, Mrs. Storer remembers Mason City as a small hamlet containing one general store, a blacksmith's shop, no hotel, with Austin, Minnesota, as the nearest railway station. Mr. and Mrs. Storer became the parents of five children, namely: Willis A., of Pleasant Valley

township; Eunice, wife of Frank H. Hosmer, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and the mother of one child, Hope, born September 11, 1909; Daisy A., studying music at Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio; Ruth W.; and Myra E., at home. Mrs. Storer is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and belongs to the C. H. Huntley Post, No. 72 W. R. C.

CHARLES E. LIGHTER.

Charles E. Lighter, an employe of the C. M. & St. P. Railroad for nearly thirty years and since 1886 a locomotive engineer, has been a resident of Mason City, Iowa, nearly all this time. He was born near Marietta, Ohio, in 1860, son of Henry and Elizabeth (Getzenganner) Lighter, and traces his ancestry on the paternal side to Germany and on the maternal side to Switzerland. Henry Lighter went from Maryland to Ohio, later to Illinois and finally to Kansas, where he died in the summer of 1885. By occupation he was a farmer. His widow died in Chicago in 1908. They were faithful members of the German Lutheran church, in which faith they reared their family, and of their eleven children three sons are now living.

At the time the Lighter family left Ohio and moved to Illinois, Charles E. was five years of age. He grew to manhood on a farm near Champaign, Illinois, where he received a fair education, and when he started out on his own responsibility he engaged in railroading, which he has since followed.

On March 4, 1885, Mr. Lighter married Miss Nellie H. Toflamine, a native of Illinois and of German descent, her parents having been early settlers and farmers of Boone county, Illinois. While not a member of any church Mrs. Lighter attends worship at the Presbyterian church. Politically Mr. Lighter is a Republican, well posted on party affairs and always at the polls to cast his franchise on election day, but never active in politics. He has long been a member of the B. of L. E. at Mason City, and for fifteen years local committeeman.

OSCAR STEVENS.

More than half a century ago when there were only a few white men at Clear Lake, Iowa, Oscar Stevens joined the little settlement here, and southwest of the lake set up a steam sawmill which he had brought with him. That was in 1854. He has ever since been identified with the business interests of the place and has con-

tributed his part toward its substantial growth and development. Among the pioneers he found here were James Dickirson, James Sirrine, Michael Callen and J. B. Wood. Young Stevens at once went to work in his sawmill, and conducted it for several years, until 1869, when he built a grist mill. The latter he operated until 1887. In the meantime he engaged in the hotel, boat and livery business, with which he was identified for a period of twenty-five years, after which he sold out. Of recent years he has been engaged in the manufacture of concrete blocks and buildings.

Mr. Stevens is a native of the "Keystone State." He was born in Wayne county, Pennsylvania, in 1833, a son of Alfred and Esther (Kellogg) Stevens, and with them in 1836 moved to McHenry county, Illinois, where he was reared, his father having settled on a farm in that county and having been engaged in agricultural pursuits there for a number of years. The parents died in Wisconsin, the father at Racine and the mother some years later at Lodi. An uncle, R. O. Sirrine, had taken up his residence at Clear Lake, Iowa, and it was through his influence that in 1854 Oscar Stevens left Illinois and came hither, as above stated.

In 1857, at Clear Lake, Mr. Stevens married Miss Mary Govro, a native of Lake county, Illinois, and four years his junior. Four children were born to them, of whom one, Mrs. Mabel Hover, died in 1902. Those living are: Hubert, of Dubuque, Iowa; Guy, of Clear Lake; and Minnie, wife of C. A. Stratton, also of Clear Lake.

In political matters Mr. Stevens has always maintained an independent attitude, keeping himself well posted and voting for men and measures rather than adhering strictly to party lines. He served one term as a county commissioner. Socially he has long been connected with numerous organizations. In Masonry he has advanced to the higher degrees and has membership in the Mystic Shrine at Cedar Rapids and the Commandery at Mason City. His identity with Odd Fellowship dates back over fifty years, he has been a Knight of Pythias since 1875, and he has membership in several insurance organizations.

JESSE S. HANSON.

Jesse S. Hanson, a representative citizen of Clear Lake, Iowa, has for years been a prominent factor in the real estate activities of this place. He was born in Lafayette county, Wisconsin, November 11, 1870, a son of Nelson Hanson, a retired resident of Clear Lake.

Nelson Hanson was born in the town of Laholm, Sweden, January 8, 1836, son of Hans Peterson and his wife, nee Petervnella Alhberg, who lived and died in Sweden. His father was a land owner and by trade was a shoemaker. In their family of seven children, Nelson Hanson is the only one now living. In 1854, at the age of eighteen, with a limited education and enough borrowed money with which to pay his passage to this country, he left the old home in Sweden and embarked for America. His first work here was as a farm hand in Lafayette county, Wisconsin. Afterward for four or five years he followed the stonemason's trade, later was employed with a lumber firm, spending several years in Milwaukee and Chicago, and from that turned his attention to farming. He came to Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, in 1880, and settled on a farm in Clear Lake township, five miles and a half south of Clear Lake. At the end of three years he traded his farm for a nursery at Clear Lake, which he conducted for ten years, after which he sold out and moved to St. Paul. At St. Paul for twelve years, with the assistance of his wife and daughter, he conducted the "St. Paul Commons," on the corner of Jackson and Eighth streets, this being a home for clerks and laborers, where good, comfortable rooms were furnished at nominal cost. During the past year he and his wife have traveled through the east and south, visiting relatives. Nelson Hanson married in Wisconsin in 1863 Miss Jennie Moody, a native of Bradford county, Pennsylvania, and a distant relative of Rev. D. L. Moody. Of their family of eight children five are living, namely: Bertha, wife of Frank Boeye, a Methodist Episcopal minister of Fort Worth, Texas; Joseph M., secretary of the Associated Charities, Youngstown, Ohio; Eleanor, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is a lecturer, engaged in charity work; Jesse S., whose name introduces this sketch; and Rev. Harry O., for the past seven or eight years in China missionary field, under the auspices of the Methodist Episcopal church. Of the three children deceased, one son, Benjamin M., died at the age of twenty-four years, a daughter, Chene, at twenty-two, and a son, Ira, in infancy. Politically Nelson Hanson has in the main supported the Republican ticket, voting first for John C. Fremont, but he has always maintained a certain independence in the matter of his franchise. He voted for St. John, the prohibitionist. He has membership in the People's church of St. Paul.

Jesse S. Hanson passed the first ten years of his life in his native country. Then he accompanied his parents and other members of the family to Iowa, and in Cerro Gordo county he grew to manhood and received a public school education. For some years

he was interested in trotting horses, and handled in 1892 sixty-five head. Later, with his father, he was interested in the nursery business, and for the past fifteen years he has been engaged in the real estate business, in company with others owning considerable land. Also he is interested in automobiles.

Mr. Hanson has been twice married. His first wife, formerly Mrs. Hattie Hubbard, died in the fall of 1903. His present wife was Miss Zeta Hubbard, she being a daughter of the late O. R. Hubbard of Clear Lake. They have one daughter, Mary, born in 1908. Like his father Mr. Hanson is an independent Republican. He and his wife worship at the Congregational church.

HENRY DAKER.

Henry Daker, a farmer in section 32, Lake township, Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, ploughed the first furrow ever turned on the land he now owns, and has lived and labored here ever since, contributing his part toward the development of agricultural interests in this locality. He was born in Delhi, Delaware county, Iowa, November 26, 1856, son of John and Mary (Pemberton) Daker, both natives of Yorkshire, England, the former born February 6, 1820, the latter, April 21, 1821. Both died in Iowa, on the farm on which their son Henry now lives, the father, August 5, 1895; the mother, January 22, 1892. They were the parents of three children, two of whom are living, Henry and Benjamin, both of Lake township. At the age of fourteen the father was apprenticed to the trade of a shoemaker in England, and worked at that trade there until 1855, when, accompanied by his wife, he came to this country, landing in New York after a voyage of seven weeks. They spent one year in New York and the following year, 1856, came west to Iowa and settled at Delhi in Delaware county, where he worked at his trade until June, 1874. During that time the leather he used was brought by stage from Dubuque. Coming to Cerro Gordo county in June, 1874, he purchased the north half of section 32, then all wild land, for which he paid eight dollars and fifty cents an acre. With the assistance of his sons he improved the farm, and here he and his good wife made their home until their death, as above noted.

At the time of their removal to the farm Henry was about eighteen years of age. He had received a fair education in the graded schools of Delhi, and from the time of their settlement in Lake township up to the present time his energies have been devoted to agricultural pursuits. He now owns two hundred and forty acres

all utilized for general farming purposes and being successfully operated. All the present buildings here were erected by him. After he had ploughed the first furrow on this land he stuck into it two cottonwood sprouts. That was on the northeast corner of the farm. These today are large trees. In speaking of his early experience here Mr. Daker says the first night he spent at Mason City he slept on the floor of the only hotel in the town, wrapped in a blanket. Clear Lake at that time was nothing but a small settlement on the lake shore.

On February 20, 1879, Mr. Daker married Miss Emma L. Brown, who was born in Livingston county, Illinois, March 12, 1857, daughter of Jonathan and Clarissa (Clark) Brown. Her father, a native of New York, born May 28, 1828, is now a resident of St. Paul, Minnesota. Her mother, born in Pennsylvania March 27, 1832, died in 1874. They were the parents of three children: Frank, of St. Paul, Minnesota; Mrs. Daker; and Mead, of Shell Lake, Wisconsin. Mrs. Daker's father settled in Livingston county, Illinois, in 1855, in 1868 moved to McHenry county, that state, and in 1872 came to Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, and purchased a tract of wild land in Mt. Vernon township, where he lived until 1900, when he retired from the farm. For thirty-eight years Mrs. Daker has lived on the same road. She and Mr. Daker have had three children, namely: Frank, at home, married Nina Parker, of Clear Lake, Iowa, and they have one daughter; Clara, wife of Walten Atkinson, of Lake township, Cerro Gordo county, and they have one daughter; and Charles, deceased.

Politically Mr. Daker has been a life long Republican. He has always taken an active interest in local affairs, and has filled the offices of township treasurer and school director, having served a dozen years in each, and still being the incumbent of the former office.

HANS WOHLER.

Among the useful and progressive citizens of Grimes township must be mentioned Hans Wohler, who owns and operates within its limits a homestead of eighty acres, all highly improved, together with two hundred and seventy-six acres elsewhere in Cerro Gordo and in Franklin counties. Mr. Wohler was born in Holstein, Germany, July 7, 1856, his parents being Jerry and Fredericka (Meier) Wohler, farming people who lived and died in their native country. There were five children besides himself, one brother, Julius, now deceased, having resided in Iowa.

Mr. Wohler enjoyed the advantages of training in the excellent German schools and was sixteen when he came to America with his brother Julius. He had very little capital with which to start when he made his initial venture at independence in 1872. He worked several years in Jackson county, Iowa, and one year in Elgin, Illinois, and he bought his first land in Cerro Gordo county, locating in Pleasant Valley township in 1879. He now owns a good sized property and an interest in land in another locality. He formerly handled considerable cattle, but has abandoned this in later years. He is independent in politics, always supporting the measures he believes will be conducive to the whole good of the community. He was reared a Lutheran.

Mr. Wohler was married in Cerro Gordo county in 1894 to Miss Christine Wolleson, also a native of Schleswig-Holstein, who came to this country when a girl. Her parents died in the old country and her emigration to America was in the early nineties. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Wohler has been blessed by the birth of the following seven children: George, who died at seven years of age; and Peter, Freda, Hannah, Aleck, Jerry and Amelia, all at home.

P. H. CAHALAN.

One of Dougherty township's good citizens and a man who has attained to a substantial competence through his own intelligent effort is P. H. Cahalan, a farmer whose productive acres are situated in section 2. He was born in Washington county, New York, March 2, 1852, and is of Irish extraction. He was eleven years of age when his parents moved westward from New York and took up their residence in Fayette county, Iowa. There he received a good common school education and grew to young manhood, receiving a very practical training in agriculture upon his father's farm. In 1875, when he was about twenty-three years of age, he believed himself to be sufficiently well versed to make an independent venture and accordingly rented land of ex-Governor Larrabee. He afterward purchased a small farm but lost it on account of the bad wheat failure of 1878. He soon rallied from his discouragement and borrowed five hundred dollars, with which he went to buying calves and cattle and from that time on things came his way and he found it easy to make money.

Mr. Cahalan married in 1889 and he brought his wife to Cerro Gordo county, where he bought about one hundred and sixty acres in section 2 of Dougherty township. This was wild land and there

were no buildings upon it, but he set to work diligently to improve it and soon had the soil in very productive condition. He has added to his holdings from time to time until he has twelve hundred acres in Dougherty township, all of which he operates with the exception of one hundred and sixty acres which he has rented. He keeps two hundred head of cattle and two hundred head of hogs on the place and is one of the most extensive stock men in the county. Mr. Cahalan has given a life-long allegiance to the principles of Democracy and enjoys the confidence of his neighbors. He is now serving his third term as township trustee, has been township assessor and held various school offices. He and his family are members of St. Patrick's Catholic church at Dougherty. He is a stockholder in the Cartersville Supply Company and has connection with the Farmers' Co-operative Society.

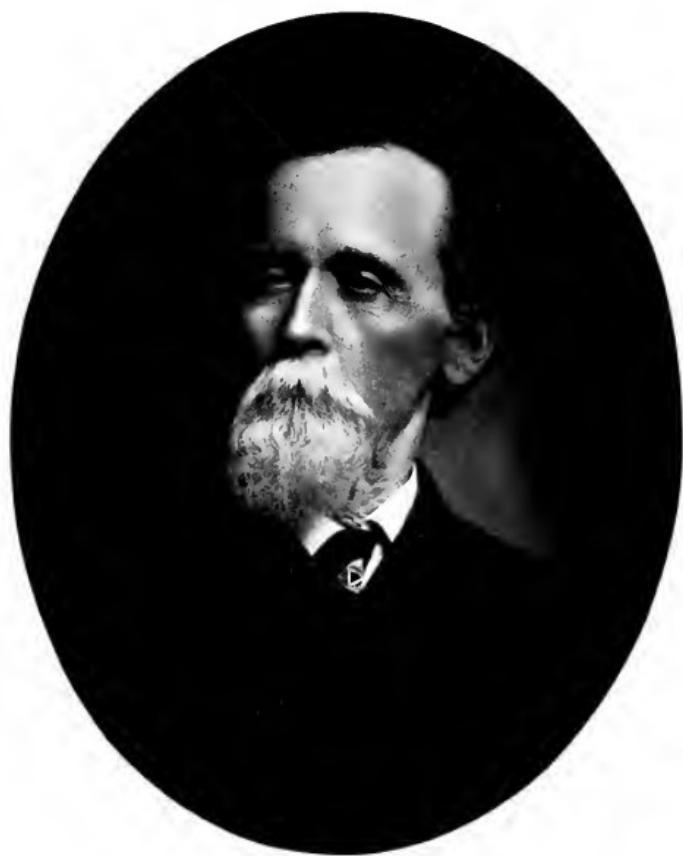
Mr. Cahalan was married, April 3, 1877, in Fayette county Iowa, to Bridget McGaheran, born April 4, 1847, in county Cavan, Ireland. She is the daughter of Michael and Rose (Sherdin) McGaheran, who came to the United States in 1848, their voyage across being of six weeks duration. They first located at Galena, Illinois, the father securing employment in the lead mines, and in 1855 came to Fayette county, Iowa, where for the remainder of their lives they engaged in farming. The father died in February, 1893, aged eighty years, and the mother survived until August, 1907, her age at the time of her death being eighty-eight years. Mr. and Mrs. Cahalan have five children, Sarah, James, William, Harry and Fred, all of whom are still sheltered beneath the home roof tree.

Mr. Cahalan is especially to be congratulated upon his success when it is remembered that he started out in life not only without a competence but five hundred dollars in debt.

WILLIAM B. STILSON.

William B. Stilson, a retired resident of Mason City, Iowa, living at 223 East Fifth street, first came to this part of Iowa in the winter of 1856-57, and is familiar with its early history, its growth and its development. He was born in Preble county, Ohio, February 25, 1832, son of Sylvanus S. and Eleanor (Bishop) Stilson.

Sylvanus S. Stilson was a native of New York state, from whence when a youth he accompanied his parents and other members of the family to Hamilton county, Ohio, and later to Preble county. At the latter place when a young man he taught school and subsequently went to Cincinnati and worked in a packing house.



W.B. Stilson



His father was born in Connecticut, and died at Elkhart, Indiana, to which place he had gone with his son Sylvanus S. From Indiana the latter moved over into Illinois and settled in McHenry county. That was in 1837. There he entered a claim, and for a number of years successfully carried on farming. He and his wife spent their last years at Mason City, Iowa, at the home of their son Abner. Of their eight children, James M., a veteran of the Civil war, died several years since at the home of a son in Hancock county, Iowa; William B., the subject of this sketch, was the second born; Leonard F., a member of the Seventh Wisconsin Infantry, died during the war, at Madison, Wisconsin, leaving a wife and son; Abner R. and Oliver H., both veterans of the Civil war, are deceased, the former having died in 1908, at Mason City, Iowa, leaving a widow and two children, the latter having died in 1909, at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He had been a resident of Cerro Gordo county two years, and Abner R. had lived here since the later '60s. Horace died in Illinois, at the age of twenty years. Of the daughters, Laura and Eleanor, the former is the widow of J. G. Bailey, an early resident of Mason City, who died here in 1908, and the latter and her husband, John McMillan, are both deceased.

William B. Stilson, in referring to early days in Cerro Gordo county, said that his brother, James M., came here with an Indian trapper and hunter in 1855, before Mason City was laid out. He afterward acquired title to land in Owen township, now Portland township, which he subsequently sold to William B. The two brothers made a trip to Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, in the winter of 1857-8, William B. taking several yoke of oxen and produce, which he traded as part payment for his brother's land in Cerro Gordo county, the purchase price being five dollars an acre. James M. married and settled at Chippewa Falls. The summer previous to this William B., in company with A. J. Churchill, did considerable breaking of prairie. They put up a comfortable shanty in which they kept "bachelor's hall," and two years later, when Mr. Stilson returned to Iowa, bringing with him his wife, he settled on this land and here carried on farming successfully for a number of years. He made his home on the farm until 1871, when he moved into Mason City. The last few years he has been practically retired from active work, having sold the farm. During the Civil war Mr. Stilson served one term as sheriff of Cerro Gordo county, and again, in 1871, he was elected to this office and served a second term. Also at different times he filled various other offices. He was one of the first county commissioners of Cerro Gordo county, and later he was street commissioner of Mason City, an office he

filled for fifteen years. It was during that time that most of the pavings and crossing of the city were built.

On February 9, 1859, Mr. Stilson married in McHenry county Illinois, Miss Mary Stevens, who was born in Wayne county, Pennsylvania, February 2, 1834, daughter of Silas Molby and Juliette (Kellogg) Stevens, natives of Vermont and Pennsylvania respectively. Her grandfather Kellogg was an aide of General Washington in the Revolutionary war. Mrs. Stilson was one of a family of seven children, the others being as follows: Homer, who died in Vermont; Asher M., of Oregon, but for many years a resident of Cerro Gordo county; Marcus, a veteran of the Civil war, who lost an arm at Gettysburg, and some years since died in Illinois; James, a Civil war veteran, died in Dakota several years ago; Esther, wife of John Pearson, died in Pennsylvania, leaving two daughters; Harriet, wife of N. P. Jensen of Portland township, Cerro Gordo county. To Mr. and Mrs. Stilson have been given two daughters, Ida A. and Julia Eleanor. The latter was the wife of Willard H. Skiff and died a number of years ago. On February 9, 1909, Mr. and Mrs. Stilson celebrated their golden wedding.

Politically Mr. Stilson has always affiliated with the Republican party, fraternally, with the F. and A. M. and the B. P. O. E., and both he and his wife are members of Chapter No. 58, O. E. S. Mrs. Stilson is also identified with the Fidelity Club and has long been an active member of the Baptist church. Miss Stilson is a member of the Sorosis Club.

JACOB E. DECKER.

The business community of Cerro Gordo county has a valued acquisition in the person of Jacob E. Decker, who is the executive head of the well known corporation of Jacob E. Decker & Sons, owners and operators of the well equipped plant at Mason City. This corporation succeeded to the business of the Mason City Packing Company, of which John T. Richards was president and which initiated the business about the year 1897, when operations were instituted upon a modest scale. The present plant was largely erected and equipped by the present owners, who have found it necessary to augment their facilities from time to time to meet the constantly increasing demands placed upon the establishment. The plant now has a capacity for the handling of one thousand hogs daily, besides about fifty head of cattle and a relative number of sheep and calves. The firm represents one of the most important

industrial enterprises in Cerro Gordo county and it affords employment to an average of more than one hundred men in addition to the regular office force and corps of traveling representatives, of which latter the number is usually about twelve. Branch houses are maintained in Minneapolis and Duluth, Minnesota. In the earlier stages of the business its functions were confined to the slaughtering and handling of hogs only, but with the development of the facilities for the handling of cattle, sheep and calves, the enterprise has inured greatly to the benefit of the stock growers of this section, as well as to those engaged in the retail meat trade. All of the buildings of the plant, as at present constructed, were erected by Jacob E. Decker and they afford an aggregate floor space of nearly 100,000 square feet. The corporation is absolutely independent in its operations and its products are sold directly to retailers in Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, North and South Dakota and Montana, besides which carload shipments are made to nearly all of the large cities in the United States, with especially large trade in Texas. The export business of the corporation is likewise expanding in scope. The company manufactures the celebrated Elk brand of ham and bacon. The officials of this important concern are as here noted: Jacob E. Decker, president; Jay E. Decker, vice president; Ralph W. E. Decker, secretary and treasurer; and Edmund R. Dunlap, sales manager.

Jacob E. Decker, president of the corporation of Jacob E. Decker & Sons, was born at Neuweid, Prussia, on the 1st of April, 1849, and in 1852 he came with his parents on their removal to America. He is a son of Louis and Anna (Boecking) Decker, the former of whom died in the city of Chicago, in 1899, at the patriarchal age of ninety-four years, and the latter of whom died at Buffalo, New York, when sixty-two years of age. After coming to America, Louis Decker established his home in the city of Buffalo, New York, where he engaged in the pork-packing and butchering business, in which he there continued until his final retirement from active labor. The enterprise which he established so many years ago is still continued by his son Albert.

Jacob E. Decker gained his early education in the public schools in the city of Buffalo, but he early assumed practical responsibilities, as he began to serve as a driver on the towpath of the Erie canal when but twelve years of age. Shortly afterward he ran away from home and began sailing on the Great Lakes, while later he followed sea-faring life on the ocean for a time. During the season of closed navigation of the Lakes, he worked in packing houses and in this connection he recalled with no slight pleasure

the fact that when he was thus employed by the Swift & Company of Chicago they did not handle to exceed two carloads of cattle a day and that he was with the Armour Company when that great concern considered the butchering of four hundred and eighty head of cattle in a single day a large output. Mr. Decker continued to sail on the Great Lakes during the summer seasons for a period of seventeen years and through his identification with the packing houses in the winter seasons he obtained a thorough knowledge of all the details of the business. In 1873 he initiated independent operations as a provision dealer in Chicago. He also began the slaughter of hogs and increased the scope of his operations as his capital justified. It should be recalled that he was superintendent of a packing house before he had attained his legal majority and in view of his occupation it is also interesting to recall that his ancestors on the maternal side largely followed the sea-faring life and that his father's family were long identified with the butchering and general meat business in Prussia. Mr. Decker developed his plant in Chicago until it had a capacity for handling five hundred hogs and one hundred head of cattle daily. He disposed of his interests in the business in 1897 and two years later he came to Mason City, Iowa, to establish a packing plant and thereby provide a business opportunity for his sons. The outcome of this plan is shown in the extensive and important business controlled by the corporation of which he is president. In 1907, at a convention of the organization held in the city of Chicago, Mr. Decker was made an honorary member of the American Meat Packers Association. He is a staunch Republican in politics, has served as a member of the city council in Mason City from 1901 to 1905 inclusive, and in the office of water commissioner he gave the most effective service in rehabilitating the local water system. He is essentially liberal and public spirited in his attitude and is held in unqualified esteem in the city that now represents his home. He is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, including the commandery in the city of Chicago, where he also holds membership in the Ancient Arabic Order of the Mystic Shrine. He is also identified with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Royal League. His wife and daughters are members of the order of the Eastern Star and his sons and son-in-law are all identified with the Masonic fraternity. Mrs. Decker and her daughters are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

In the city of Chicago, on the 24th of September, 1873, Mr. Decker was united in marriage to Miss Augusta Schram, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. They have two sons and two daughters. The

two sons are officers of the corporation of the Jacob Decker & Sons, as already noted; Maude L. is the wife of Edmund R. Dunlap, sales manager of the company, and Miss Gertrude is a cultured musician and conservatory graduate and is now an instructor of voice culture and music at the Normal School at Natchitoches, Louisiana.

GEORGE E. FROST.

It would be difficult to find in the annals of Cerro Gordo county a man who made a deeper impress upon the life of the community or touched it at more points than George E. Frost, large land owner, newspaper proprietor, organizer of the county's first bank, postmaster, county surveyor, last county judge and first county auditor, this by no means being a complete enumeration of his offices and activities. Mr. Frost was a New Englander, having been born at Bridgeport in Addison county, Vermont, April 1, 1834, and he was at the prime of life when his death occurred in Clear Lake, June 28, 1887. When Mr. Frost was but three years of age his parents, Levi and Mary E. (Devine) Frost, moved to Canton, St. Lawrence county, New York, and it was there that he grew to manhood, he being the only one of his brothers and sisters who survived to maturity. In 1854, when he was about twenty years of age, his father came westward to De Kalb county Illinois, bringing his family with him. After a short residence in this state they removed to a farm near Marble Rock, Floyd county, Iowa, here living until they came, in 1860, to Clear Lake, where they resided until the death of the father in 1870 and that of the mother in 1871.

Soon after his arrival in Clear Lake Mr. Frost was appointed surveyor of Cerro Gordo county, a position which he held for five years. About this time he traded a farm which he owned in Floyd county for one hundred and sixty acres in Grant township. This he added to until it consisted of fourteen hundred acres and at the time of his death he owned two thousand acres in Cerro Gordo county, this constituting him a large land owner. In 1870 Mr. Frost purchased the Clear Lake *Observer*, which he sold in 1874 to Hon. M. P. Rosecrans, and upon the discontinuation of the paper by the latter, he purchased a new press and renewed its publication. In 1879 he sold it again to F. J. Bush, who gave it the name of the Clear Lake *Mirror* and it is still published under that name at the present day. In 1880 he established the Clear Lake *Record*, which he sold in 1885.

Mr. Frost was essentially a versatile business man, and among

his manifold activities was the establishment of a real estate business in 1861. From 1865 to 1873 he acted as revenue collector and in 1874 was associated with Marcus Tuttle in the organization of the Clear Lake bank, this making them the first bankers of the town. At the termination of a year Mr. Frost purchased his partner's interest. In 1877 he sold his banking interest to W. A. Burnap and in 1880 bought it back again. In 1868-69 he served as county judge of Cerro Gordo county and later as county auditor, and as previously mentioned he was the last county judge and the first county auditor of Cerro Gordo county. He added to his record as a public servant the office of postmaster at Clear Lake, which he held from 1862 to 1877, with the exception of two short intervals.

Much of the unusual success of Mr. Frost was due to his remarkable mental activity and energetic business habits. He was public spirited and his own advancement was never at the expense of the common good, but rather to the contrary. He may be accounted one of Clear Lake's pioneers and his memory will long be kept green in the town which was the scene of his activities.

On September 4, 1865, Mr. Frost took as his wife, Miss Azubah D. Duncan, who was born in Canada, January 21, 1840, and still resides at Clear Lake, in the beautiful family residence. Mrs. Frost was the daughter of Thomas and Almira (Thomas) Duncan, the father being a native of Scotland and the mother of New York. In 1863 they moved from McHenry county, Illinois, to Cerro Gordo county, locating in Lake township. It was there that the father died in 1871, after forty years' residence in America. The mother died April 20, 1895, at the age of seventy-eight years. The marriage of Mrs. Frost's parents took place in Canada in 1838. Mr. and Mrs. Frost were the parents of three children, Agnes, wife of C. R. Woodford, and Mary and George E., the two latter being at home.

WILLIAM N. WILLIAMS.

Great Britain has lost a large number of her good subjects to Cerro Gordo county, and among these is William N. Williams, who owns and operates a farm in section 25, Geneseo township. He was born in Cornwall, England, in November, 1859, his parents being Peter and Priscilla (Nicholas) Williams, both of them being natives of Cornwall. The father lives at present in Sheffield, Franklin county, and is seventy-eight years of age. The mother died in 1903, at the age of seventy-two. In 1869 Peter Williams brought his wife and five children to the United States. They located for

a time at Hazel Green, Wisconsin, and then removed to a farm near Jamestown, Grant county, Wisconsin, which the father had purchased. This was an improved farm with good buildings and other advantages. In 1893 it was sold and in 1894 was replaced by a half section two miles from Sheffield, Franklin county, Iowa. Here the family resided until 1898, when the father retired and made his home in the town of Sheffield. William N. is the second of eight children, five of whom are living. Harry and Thomas are in business in Sheffield, Albert is in the west and Annie lives at home with her father. John died when fourteen years of age, and Jessie, at the age of six months; Bessie, who was the wife of Edgar James of Sheffield, is also deceased, and Laura died at the age of forty-two years. She was the wife of Esau Webb of Aberdeen, South Dakota.

In 1883 William N. Williams located in Sioux Falls, South Dakota and remained there eleven years. In the fall of 1894 he removed to Pleasant Valley, where he rented a farm for a year and in 1895 bought his present place of one hundred and sixty acres, all improved.

Mr. Williams was united in marriage in the month of September, 1885, to Miss Effie M. Keesler, a daughter of J. M. and Rhena Keesler. They were residents of Sioux Falls, later living in Springfield, Missouri, and in 1903 came to Geneseo township to make their home with Mr. Williams. They lived here but a short time, the father dying the following June, the mother's demise occurring in 1904 while upon a visit to her old home in Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Williams have three sons: Albert J., Walter L. and Leslie P., all of them at home. Mr. Williams is a loyal Republican and has served as secretary of the school board for fourteen years and as township trustee for twelve, his term in the latter office expiring in 1910. Both he and his wife are members of the Fraternal Order of the Mystic Toilers.

WILLIAM GRAY.

William Gray, postmaster of Clear Lake and who for the past fifteen years has been a prominent citizen of the place, was born near Glasgow, Scotland, June 24, 1856. His parents, Thomas and Agnes (Fraser) Gray, also natives of Scotland, came to the United States in 1873, bringing their children with them.

Mr. Gray enjoyed the advantages of a good education, attending the common schools of his native country and supplementing this with a course in the University of Glasgow. It was while he was in attendance at this famous institution of learning that his

parents came to their decision to try their fortunes in America. Although Mr. Gray was only about seventeen years of age at the time he began almost immediately to teach school in Grundy county, and from 1873 to 1878 he held the position of deputy county auditor of Grundy county. In the latter year he purchased a one-half interest in the Grundy County Republican and for four years he edited and published this sheet, or until his removal to Washington, D. C. He spent ten years in the national capitol in his capacity of special examiner in the pension department. In 1892 he returned to Iowa, and after three years of unsettled residence he decided to locate in Clear Lake where he purchased a one-half interest in the Clear Lake Mirror. Two years later he purchased the entire plant and conducted the same about fifteen years. He was actively interested in this newspaper until October 1, 1909, when failing health compelled him to give up an occupation of such strenuous nature, particularly as he held at the same time the position of postmaster. His appointment as postmaster came in 1906 and he now devotes his time to its duties.

Since the attainment of his majority Mr. Gray has taken an active interest in politics and has given a stanch and unfailing support to the Republican party, although he is not personally attracted by the lure of office holding. He has given public service, however, acting as secretary of the school board for seven years and having the appointment of chairman of the Republican Central Committee. He is a past secretary of the Commercial Club and president of the Hawkeye Club, Clear Lake, Iowa. He is past chancellor commander of Chivalrie Lodge No. 82, Knights of Pythias. He is progressive and well read and made an enviable reputation for himself in this section of the state as a newspaper editor.

Mr. Gray was united in marriage July 7, 1880, to Miss Emma S. Elliott, who was born in Canada, in 1861. They have two children, Mabel and Walter C., both of whom are at home. The latter is deputy county treasurer of Cerro Gordo county.

NORMAN DENSMORE.

The subject of this review took up his residence in Cerro Gordo county in the pioneer days and was prominently identified with the civic and material development and progress of this section of the state, so that he is well entitled to consideration in this publication. Though he now maintains his residence in the city of Des Moines, where he is president of the Iowa State Mutual

Tornado Insurance Company, to whose executive affairs he is now giving virtually his undivided attention, he long held a position of prominence and influence in Cerro Gordo county, where he is remembered with all of confidence and esteem by those with whom he was associated and by all familiar with his earnest and productive career.

Mr. Densmore was born at Riga, New York, on the 19th of September, 1829, and is a son of Orrin and Elizabeth (Fowler) Densmore. The Densmore family was founded in America in the early Colonial epoch and the records indicate that in 1720 representatives of the name established their home in the state of Maine, whither they came from county Antrim, Ireland, to which section the family had immigrated from Scotland. John Densmore was the founder of the family in America and from the old pine-tree state his descendants later located in New Hampshire, New York and other sections of the Union. Daniel Densmore, grandfather of the subject of this review, moved from New Hampshire to the state of New York, where he passed the remainder of his life. When sixteen years of age the Hon. Norman Densmore, to whom this sketch is dedicated, moved to the state of Wisconsin and he made the major part of the journey with a team and wagon. By attending Beloit College of that state he effectually rounded out his earlier educational discipline. He achieved prominence as a surveyor and ran a line for the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad out of Chicago. He then turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, with which he continued to be identified at Rock county, Wisconsin, until 1877, when he removed with his family to Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, and secured a tract of land in Bath township, where he reclaimed a productive farm and became one of the representative agriculturists of this section of the state. He accumulated a landed estate of about two hundred and twenty acres and he continued to reside upon this fine homestead until 1891, when he removed to Mason City. Here he became an interested principal in the Cerro Gordo County Farmer's Mutual Insurance Company, of which he was secretary until 1905, when he removed to Des Moines, where he has since been incumbent of the office of president of the Iowa State Mutual Tornado Insurance Company. While still residing on his farm, Mr. Densmore represented Cerro Gordo county in the state legislature for two terms. He was one of the prime factors in the organization of the Farmer's Co-operative Association of Rockwell, Cerro Gordo county, and served as its president for about a decade, and he was otherwise influential in public affairs. In politics he is a stanch adherent of the

Republican party and he attends the Congregational church, of which his devoted wife was a member. She died in Mason City in 1898, at the age of sixty-five years.

In the year 1854, in the city of Chicago, Mr. Densmore was united in marriage to Miss Delia Webster, of Palestine, Illinois. She was left an orphan at an early age and was reared and educated in Illinois. Concerning the five children of this family the following brief data are incorporated: Ellis, who died at the age of thirty-one years, at Bingham, Alabama, was at the time identified with one of the leading iron manufacturing concerns of that state; Elsie is the wife of A. E. Joiner of St. Paul, Minnesota; Ray is an employe of the American Bridge Company of Chicago; Dr. Ora of Mason City is individually mentioned in this work; and Webb is a senior lieutenant in the United States navy, being now assigned to recruiting duty with headquarters at Cedar Rapids and with a branch office at Mason City. He was graduated as an electrical engineer in Highland Park College and for several years thereafter held a position in the shops of the Pullman Car Company, but has been a member of the United States navy since 1897.

ORA DENSMORE, M. D.

It is a matter of no slight significance to have achieved success in so exacting and so representative a profession as that of the physician and surgeon, and thus it is gratifying to the publishers of this work to be able to incorporate within its pages special mention of those who stand essentially prominent in the medical profession of Cerro Gordo county. Among this number is Dr. Densmore, who is engaged in the successful practice of his profession in Mason City and who, in addition to thorough training in the regular lines of medicine and surgery, is also a graduate in osteopathy. He has a finely appointed suite of offices in the Commercial block and has been engaged in the work of his profession in Mason City since 1904. He is a son of the Hon. Norman Densmore, concerning whom more definite mention is made elsewhere in this volume.

Dr. Densmore was born at Emerald Grove, Wisconsin, on the 13th of September, 1872, and in 1877, when he was five years of age, his parents moved to Cerro Gordo county, where he was reared to maturity and where his early educational advantages were those afforded in the public schools, after leaving which he completed a commercial course under the direction of Professor C. P. Headington of Mason City. He then entered Highland

Park College, at Des Moines, Iowa, where he completed the scientific course and was graduated as a member of the class of 1895, with the degree of Bachelor of Science. Soon afterward he went to Kirksville, Missouri, the headquarters of the osteopathic cult and there entered the well-equipped college of this school of practice, in which he was graduated in 1898 and from which he received the degree of Doctor of Osteopathy. In 1901 he was graduated in the National Medical College, in the city of Chicago, from which he received the degree of Doctor of Medicine. After leaving this institution he was for two years a member of the faculty of the school of osteopathy at Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. The Doctor has been very successful in the work of his chosen profession, especially in the field of osteopathic work. He is secretary of the Fourth District Association of Osteopathic Physicians and is one of the leading representatives of this effective school of practice in northern Iowa. In politics he is a stanch Republican. He is affiliated with the Mason City organization of Homestead No. 162, Brotherhood of American Yeomen, in which fraternity he is treasurer of the Iowa state conclave. His wife is a member of the Congregational church.

On the 21st of December, 1901, Dr. Densmore was united in marriage to Miss Ella Perry of Storm Lake, Iowa, where she held for several years a position in the First National Bank. Dr. and Mrs. Densmore have one daughter, Claire, who was born on the 25th of June, 1903.

CYRENIUS G. DAYTON.

A prominent business man of Mason City, Iowa, and one of its most highly esteemed and respected citizens, Cyrenus G. Dayton, is widely known as proprietor of the Mason City Marble and Granite Works. A son of Isaac and Mary A. (Patchen) Dayton, he was born August 1, 1851, in Delaware county, New York. His parents migrated from that county to Wisconsin in 1865, locating on a farm in Columbia county, where both spent the remainder of their lives, the father dying at the age of seventy-six years, in 1891, and the mother in 1893, aged seventy-five years. Of their ten children six are living, as follows: N. B., of Mason City; Cyrenus G.; Charles M., of Los Angeles, California; Emory S., of Randolph, Wisconsin; E. H., of Fall River, Wisconsin; and Ambrose, of Wisconsin.

Having acquired a practical education in the district schools, Cyrenus G. Dayton left the home farm when fifteen years old and

served an apprenticeship at the trade of a plasterer and mason, which he followed several years. He was passenger in the fall of 1869 on the first work train that entered Mason City, and he subsequently worked at his trade here summers, during the winter season being employed in a marble-entter's shop. In 1872 Mr. Dayton bought Mr. T. B. Gale's marble shop, and not only conducted that but was a contractor for mason and plaster work for a number of years. He has the finest and most modernly-equipped marble shop in northern Iowa and manufactures all of his monuments from the rough material, being an especially skillful and artistic marble worker. He has acquired considerable property in the city, in 1893 having erected his present building. He is independent in politics, voting regardless of party restrictions, and fraternally belongs to the Knights of Pythias.

On February 9, 1876, Mr. Dayton was united in marriage with Mary A. Elam, who was born in Dodgeville, Wisconsin, November 17, 1853, and they had four children, but Beatrice Dayton is the only one living. Ruth E. married A. J. Kilmer, a druggist here, and she died at the age of twenty-seven years, leaving two children. Jerald died at the age of two years, and Edgar died at the age of fifteen years.

JAMES E. TRESTON.

James E. Treston, cashier of the Farmers' State Bank of Rockwell and a former agriculturist of ability, is of Irish descent and shares in some of the most pleasing characteristics of his ancestors. He was born in Kenosha, Wisconsin, April 23, 1862, his parents being Edward and Eliza (Dillon) Treston, both of whom were natives of county Mayo, Ireland. They were married in their native country and in 1850, shortly afterward, they came with two of their children to the United States and located in Wisconsin. The father engaged as a farm hand, chopped wood, and in various ways of like nature made his livelihood and at the time of the Rebellion served his newly adopted country in railroad building in the south. In 1865 the family moved to Pennsylvania and located near Hazleton, in Luzerne county, where the father took up the occupation of mining, his particular duties being the charge of the slate pickers. Also for several years he had charge of highway construction, repairing the roads in existence and opening up new ones in the township of Hazle.

In 1884 the father came with his family to Dougherty township, Cerro Gordo county, where he had been previously and pur-

chased one hundred and sixty acres of improved land. He built an addition to the house and a barn and outbuildings, and a little later bought eighty acres more and continued to make his home there until his death. He and his family held membership in the church of the Sacred Heart. In politics he was a Democrat and for some time served as school treasurer of the township. There was a family of ten children, seven of whom are living, as follows: Susan E., of Rockwell; Mrs. Kate Gallagher, of Dougherty township; Mrs. Mary Bonner, of Utah; Mrs. Margaret Rader, of Rockwell; Mr. Treston; Mrs. Budger Barragy, of Dougherty township; and Mrs. Jennie Gaffney, of Rockwell. Eliza, who died in 1887, John and a daughter who died in infancy are the three who have passed on.

James E. Treston received his education in the public schools of Hazle township, Pennsylvania. He came with his father to Iowa and worked upon the homestead until July, 1902, when he was elected cashier of the Farmers' State Bank of Rockwell, which position he holds to the present time, his competency being of a high order. He gives an unfaltering support to the Democratic party and for several terms held the office of township clerk. He and his wife are members of the Sacred Heart Catholic church.

Mr. Treston's wife before her marriage was Miss Julia Burke, of Dougherty township, their union being celebrated in November, 1891. Her parents, Michael and Julia Burke, came to Cerro Gordo county in 1878. The father acquired four hundred acres of land, most of which he improved himself. He died in 1902 and his wife in 1889. Mr. and Mrs. Treston are the parents of eight children: Edward, Mary, Martin, James, Elizabeth, Julia and Catherine (both deceased), and Julia.

ALBERT F. SHOTTS.

Albert F. Shotts has for many years been prominently identified with the advancement and growth of the industrial prosperity of Mason City, and now, as president of the Mason City Realty Company, is carrying on a successful real estate, loan and insurance business. A son of J. J. Shotts, he was born, February 17, 1855, in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania. Born in Germany in the early part of the nineteenth century, J. J. Shotts remained in the Fatherland until twenty-two years of age. Coming then to the United States he was variously employed, during the last few years of his residence in the East being manager of extensive salt works. Locating with his family in Iowa in 1859, he bought land

in Keokuk county, and from that time made farming his principal occupation, living in that county until his death, in 1906, at the venerable age of ninety-two years. He married Anna B. Hunker, who came from Germany to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, when eighteen years old. She passed to the life beyond in 1882, at the age of three score and ten years. They became the parents of seven children, of whom five are living, namely: John, of Rock Island, Illinois; J. F., of La Crosse, Kansas; J. W., of Keota, Iowa; Albert F., the subject of this sketch; and Emma, wife of M. Plevka, of Downer's Grove, Illinois.

While living on the home farm Albert F. Shotts was well trained in the mysteries of farming, and after leaving the district schools further advanced his knowledge by attendance at the Iowa State University for a year. Beginning the battle of life for himself, he served for a year as clerk and second mate on a Mississippi river passenger packet plying between Vicksburg and Memphis. Entering then the employ of O. F. Ferguson, a railroad construction contractor connected with an Evansville, Indiana, company, he was purchasing agent, time-keeper, and pay master for two years, working all through the middle west. The following three years Mr. Shotts traveled on the road as general agent for the Western Publishing Company of Chicago, selling school supplies, covering most of the states and territories and Canada. He probably spent twenty years as a salesman in different lines. He was afterwards in the drug business in Iowa and Kansas for three years, the ensuing eighteen months being department manager of the Historical Publishing Company of Philadelphia.

Locating then at Williamsburg, Iowa, Mr. Shotts was there engaged in the hardware and implement business for five years, one year of that time serving as mayor of the town. Going from there to Keota, Iowa, he embarked in the lumber, grain and coal business, continuing three years, and he was a member of the council and was chief of the fire department while there. On December 26, 1900, Mr. Shotts came to Mason City to help organize the American Brick and Tile Company, of which he was subsequently the business manager for six years. In 1906 he was one of the promoters of the Wardrobe Company of Mason City, in which he is a stockholder and is now the president. He is a stockholder in the Martin Manufacturing Company, which he was influential in having located in Mason City, and, as above mentioned, is president of the Mason City Realty Company, which was here established January 1, 1908.

Mr. Shotts married, January 1, 1891, Ruth Anna Dugdale,

who was born at Mount Pleasant, Iowa, May 17, 1866. Mr. Shotts is active and prominent in fraternal organizations, belonging to the Knights of Pythias, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and as a Mason being a member of the lodge, the chapter, the council, the commandery, and the shrine. Politically he is a cheerful supporter of the principles of the Republican party. Mrs. Shotts is a member of the Congregational church, towards the support of which he is a liberal contributor.

WILLIAM H. MOORE.

Occupying one of the most attractive homesteads of Portland township, William H. Moore has here been profitably engaged in general agriculture for many years, his farm of four hundred acres being advantageously located on sections 23 and 24. A son of James K. Moore, he was born, in 1858, in Dodge county, Wisconsin, where the first few years of his life were spent.

Born in Oswego, New York, June 7, 1822, James K. Moore was taken by his parents in 1823 to Lysander, Onondaga county, New York, and was there reared and educated. After attaining his majority he spent two years in Wisconsin, but did not at that time settle there. Going back to Lysander, he staid there until 1849, when he returned to Wisconsin, locating in Dodge county, where he redeemed a farm from the wilderness and continued his residence for upwards of a score of years. Coming to Iowa in 1873, he resided in Floyd county, at Marble Rock, until 1879. Locating in that year in Cerro Gordo county, he bought the land now owned and operated by his son, William H., and was here prosperously engaged in general farming until December, 1892. Removing to California at that time, he located at Summerland, Santa Barbara county, where he lived in retirement until his death, May 14, 1906. He was a man of much culture, a Spiritualist in religion, and very active in psychological research. He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, taking much interest in the affairs of the order. He married in Wisconsin, Jane Vokes, who was born in England and came to the United States when a child. She died in Wisconsin many years ago, leaving two children, namely: Leonora, who married Joseph Woloth, and died in Iowa about twenty-five years ago; and William H., the subject of this sketch.

Receiving his early education in the public schools of Wisconsin, William H. Moore came with his father to Iowa in 1873, and subsequently assisted him in clearing and improving the farm

which he now owns and occupies in Portland township, Cerro Gordo county. Familiar with every branch of agriculture from his youth up, Mr. Moore has met with uniform success as a general farmer and in addition to cultivating the soil with profitable results he has for many years carried on an extensive and lucrative business at Nora Springs, buying, selling, feeding and shipping cattle. His home farm is one of the best in its appointments and improvements of any in this part of the state, giving ample evidence to the passer-by of his skill as a practical farmer and rural householder.

Mr. Moore married Julia Carll, who was born in Ireland and came to Mason City with her parents when a child. Here her father died, but her mother, brothers and sisters still reside in Mason City. Mr. and Mrs. Moore have two children, James E., aged twenty-seven years, and William W., two years younger. Both live on the home farm. James E. married Lucinda Gaus, and they have one daughter, Winnifred B. Moore. In his political views Mr. Moore is independent. Fraternally he belongs to the Knights of Pythias and to the Modern Woodmen of America.

FRANKLIN S. TAYLOR.

Franklin S. Taylor, for many years a respected farmer of Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, died at his home in Clear Lake, this county, April 6, 1900. Mr. Taylor was a native of the "Empire State." He was born in St. Lawrence county, New York, September 5, 1845, and when a boy of nine years accompanied his parents, Joseph and Sylvia (Chapman) Taylor, and other members of the family, to Iowa, their settlement being in Jackson county, where he grew to manhood on his father's farm. He was one of seven children, of whom three are now living. The father died in Jackson county. The mother survived him about fifteen years and died in Cerro Gordo county.

When the Civil war was inaugurated Franklin S. Taylor, a youth at work in his father's fields, was eager to respond to the call for soldiers to protect the Union. On July 19, 1862, he enlisted as a member of Company A, Nineteenth Infantry, U. S. A., and was with his command until he was discharged on account of disability, after serving about eighteen months. After the war he moved to Grant township, Cerro Gordo county, where he carried on farming and made his home for a number of years, finally moving to Clear Lake, where his death occurred. The farm has since been sold.



Franklin S. Taylor.

On August 1, 1868, in Lincoln township, Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, Mr. Taylor married Miss Lydia Blackmore, who was born in Allegany, New York, February 4, 1850, a daughter of Edwin and Cynthia (Wetmore) Blackmore. When she was a girl her parents moved west to Wisconsin, and four years later, after the death of her father, which occurred in Wisconsin, her mother and other members of the family came to Iowa and took up their residence in Cerro Gordo county. That was in 1867. Her mother died at the advanced age of ninety years. In their family were seven children, whom five are still living. To Mr. and Mrs. Taylor nine children were born, namely: Orion, of Oregon; Mabel, wife of W. J. Robinson, of Clear Lake; Miss Cynthia, a professional hairdresser; Fred, of Fargo, North Dakota; Edward, also of Fargo, married Miss Nettie Larson; Norman, of Bend, Oregon; Willett, of Clear Lake, Iowa, married Miss Tina Beeber; Sylvia, wife of Ernest Dunsmore, of Mountain Lake, Minnesota; and Frank, of Anthon, Iowa. Mrs. Dunsmore has a son, Leland Dunsmore, the only grandchild in the family.

Mr. Taylor was a stanch Republican, always maintained a deep interest in public affairs, and at different times filled local office, such as school director, assessor, census enumerator, etc. He was a member of Thomas Howard Post, G. A. R., in which he filled all the chairs except that of commander. He worshiped at the Methodist Episcopal church, with which the family have long been identified. Mrs. Taylor is a member of the Relief Corps.

CHARLES H. McNIDER.

Charles H. McNider, president of the First National Bank at Mason City, Iowa, serves as an example of what can be accomplished by a poor boy. It would be interesting to note in detail the various steps in the career of Mr. McNider as he has climbed to his present position, but in this work limited space renders possible the presentation of only a brief resume.

Charles H. McNider was born in Dubuque, Iowa, in 1860, son of Thomas B. and Anna (Kane) McNider, both now deceased. His father was a railroad contractor and at one time carried on an extensive business, but in later years suffered severe financial reverses. He and his wife spent the closing years of their lives in Mason City, to which place they moved in 1871, when Charles H. was a small boy. Here the lad attended school until February, 1875, when it became necessary for him to leave the school room and enter a business life, and then it was that he began what has

proved a successful career. In April, 1875, he entered the employ of the Cerro Gordo County Bank, as office boy, at a salary of one hundred dollars a year. When this bank was reorganized and became the First National Bank young McNider remained with it, and so well had he ingratiated himself that in 1881 he was made assistant cashier. In 1887 it was his good fortune to step into the office of cashier, and in 1895 he was honored by being elected president of the bank, the position he now fills. In the meantime he became identified with various other enterprises. At this writing he is president of the Mason City Loan & Trust Company, the First National Bank of Dougherty, the Citizens' Saving Bank of Hanlontown, the Farmers' State Bank of Joice, Iowa, and the Carpenter Savings Bank of Carpenter, Iowa; vice president and treasurer of the Mason City & Clear Lake Railroad Company, and treasurer of the Portland Cement Company, besides being a stockholder in various other business organizations.

In municipal affairs Mr. McNider has always taken an enthusiastic interest. He was a member of the school board, of which he served as president for ten or twelve years, and for seventeen years he was treasurer of Mason City. Politically he has always affiliated with the Republican party. In 1896 he was a presidential elector and had the honor to assist in the election of President McKinley. His interest in educational matters has extended beyond the confines of his home town school board. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Iowa State Teachers' College.

In fraternal circles he has long been prominent and active. He has membership in the M. B. A., I. O. O. F., M. W. A., B. P. O. E., K. of P. and F. & A. M. He was the first Exalted Ruler in the Elks' lodge at Mason City, is a charter member of the Uniformed Rank, K. of P., and in Masonry he has reached the top round. For fourteen years he served as eminent commander of Commandery No. 43, Mason City, and to him belongs the distinction of being the only thirty-third degree Mason here.

Mr. McNider's wife, May H., is a daughter of Frederiek Hanford and a native of Tompkins county, New York. They have one son, Hanford McNider, attending Harvard University.

ADONIRAM J. MILLER.

This sterling citizen of Mason City, where he is now living virtually retired, has been a resident of Cerro Gordo county for a period of forty years, within which it was given him to gain success

and independence through well directed endeavors, and he is a member of one of the honored pioneer families of Iowa, with whose annals the name has been identified for more than half a century. He was in his twenty-first year at the time of the family emigration to the Hawkeye state, and here he has found ample scope and opportunity for productive effort along normal lines of industrial and business enterprise, the while he has so ordered his course as to merit and receive the high regard of his fellow men.

Mr. Miller reverts to the old Keystone state of the Union as the place of his nativity, as he was born on a farm in Venango township, Crawford county, Pennsylvania, on the 12th of August, 1836. He is a son of Abraham and Nancy (Ross) Miller, both of whom were likewise natives of Pennsylvania—the former of German lineage and the latter of Scotch-Irish extraction, she having been a lineal descendant of the great navigator, Sir John Ross. Both families were founded in Pennsylvania prior to the war of the Revolution.

Abraham Miller was identified with agricultural pursuits in Crawford county, Pennsylvania, until 1847, when he moved with his family to Monongalia county, West Virginia, which state at that time was an integral portion of the historic old commonwealth of Virginia. There he continued to be engaged in farming until 1856, when he came to Iowa and cast in his lot with the pioneers of Allamakee county, where he purchased a tract of land and developed a valuable and productive farm. On this old homestead he continued to reside until his death, in 1883, at the venerable age of seventy-five years. His loved and devoted wife was summoned to eternal rest in 1876, when about sixty-eight years of age, and both were zealous and consistent members of the Baptist church, exemplifying their faith in their worthy lives and kindly deeds. They became the parents of three sons and two daughters who attained to years of maturity, and of the number the subject of this review, the eldest of the three now living, was the fourth in order of birth. Dr. Edson C. Miller is a representative physician and surgeon at Brookings, South Dakota; Rachel is the wife of Thomas B. Wiley, of Waukon, Allamakee county, Iowa; Captain George R. Miller, well remembered in Cerro Gordo county, where he died in 1885, at the age of fifty-four years, was captain of Company I, Twenty-seventh Iowa Volunteer Infantry, in the Civil war; and Sarah, who became the wife of Joseph Curtis, died in Hancock county, this state, in 1883.

Adoniram J. Miller, the immediate subject of this sketch, gained his rudimentary education in the common schools of his

native county and was about eleven years of age at the time of the family removal to Monongalia county, West Virginia, where he was reared to maturity and where he made good use of the educational advantages afforded him. When seventeen years of age he proved himself eligible for pedagogic service, and he began teaching in the schools of West Virginia. Later he taught in the district schools of Allamakee county, Iowa, whither he accompanied his parents when he was in his twenty-first year, and he continued to teach at intervals until he had attained to the age of thirty-five years. He thus proved a valued factor in educational work during a period of about seventeen years, and through self-discipline and association with men and affairs he became a man of broad intellectual ken and of mature judgment. In 1870 Mr. Miller came to Mason City and engaged in the grocery business, in which he continued for a decade, within which he built up a prosperous enterprise and gained a secure place in the confidence and esteem of the community. In 1880 he disposed of his grocery business and purchased a farm in Lime Creek township. He made excellent improvements on this property and developed one of the valuable farms of the county. He continued to give his personal supervision to the homestead farm until 1895, when he removed to Mason City, where he has since lived practically retired and where he is the owner of an attractive home. He still owns his farm, which comprises one hundred and sixty acres, and through his own efforts he has gained vantage-ground as one of the well-to-do citizens of Cerro Gordo county, where he has ever stood exemplar of progressiveness and loyal civic loyalty, giving his support to all measures tending to enhance the general welfare. In politics he is aligned as a stanch supporter of the principles of the Democratic party and he keeps well informed in connection with matters of public polity and interest. He was a member of the school board of Mason City in 1872 and in this connection he was one of the strong advocates of the erection of the old stone school house, which long provided ample facilities. He has continued to take a deep interest in educational matters and has urged a progressive policy in the work of the public schools of his home city and county. He was a member of the city council for a period of four years and also served as deputy sheriff for one term, under the regime of Sheriff Rosecrantz. Mr. Miller has never identified himself with any fraternal organization. His wife was a devoted member of the Baptist church and Mr. Miller contributes to the support of all the churches in Mason City.

In Allamakee county, Iowa, on the 18th of March, 1862, was

solemnized the marriage of Mr. Miller to Miss Margaret Sencebaugh, who was born in the state of Virginia, whence she came with her parents to Iowa in 1850. The great loss and bereavement in the life of Mr. Miller was that which came when his cherished and devoted wife and helpmeet was summoned to eternal rest, on the 1st of September, 1907, at the age of sixty-seven years. She is survived by two children: Frank A., who is engaged in the grocery business in Mason City, and Fannie, who is the wife of A. H. Dunn, of Plankinton, South Dakota.

ALBURTUS S. CLARK.

For more than a quarter of a century a resident of Mason City, Alburtus S. Clark, county auditor of Cerro Gordo county, has ever taken a warm interest in local affairs, serving his fellow men in various capacities, in the performance of his public duties devoting his time and attention in a generous measure. He was born, June 4, 1846, in Madison county, New York, a son of Stephen and Susan (Popple) Clark. His father, a native of New York state, died in Green Lake county, Wisconsin, in 1892, aged seventy-four years. His wife, who was born in Rhode Island, in 1822, is now living in Wisconsin. Five children were born of their union, as follows: Mary, widow of George Thompson, of Berlin, Wisconsin; Helen, wife of H. C. Smith, of Jamestown, North Dakota; Alburtus S., the subject of this brief biographical sketch; George, of Green Lake county, Wisconsin; and Wallace, a resident of the same county. The parents were among the early pioneers of that county, and while busy clearing and improving their own home-stead were important factors in advancing the material interests of the community in which they spent the best years of their lives.

Eight years of age when his parents migrated to Wisconsin, Alburtus S. Clark grew up on the farm, attending the short sessions of the district school, in the meantime becoming familiar with the various branches of mixed husbandry. In February, 1864, he enlisted as a bugler in the First Wisconsin Cavalry, and served in that position until the close of the conflict. Returning to the parental roof-tree, he assisted in the care of the farm during the ensuing two years, after which he was clerk in a shoe store for a year. Becoming a traveling salesman then for a shoe firm, Mr. Clark continued on the road nine years, in the meantime, in 1874, purchasing a half interest in a shoe and grocery store at Waupun, Wisconsin. Leaving the road in 1881, he had charge of the Waupun shoe establishment for three years.

Coming to Mason City in the fall of 1884, Mr. Clark embarked in the stock and grazing business. Opening a meat market in 1892, he managed it successfully for three and one-half years, when it burned out, and he did not rebuild. Being elected city assessor, he served faithfully for six years, afterwards being engaged in the real estate and insurance business as junior member of the firm of Crossley & Clark. In the fall of 1906 Mr. Clark was elected county auditor of Cerro Gordo county, and served so ably and satisfactorily that in 1908 he was re-elected for another term of two years. He was again the candidate for the third term, without opposition, on the Republican ticket, for the November election of 1910. While living on the home farm in Wisconsin, when little more than a boy, he was made road master, and about the same time was elected school treasurer. While serving in the latter capacity Mr. Clark tells of his experience in caring for the money entrusted to him. He carefully spread the bills over the bottom of his trunk, covered them with a newspaper, and then put his clothes on top of the papers, his trunk proving a very safe bank deposit.

Politically Mr. Clark is an unwavering Republican. Fraternally he belongs to C. H. Huntley Post, No. 42, G. A. R.; to Benevolence Lodge No. 145, A. F. & A. M. to Benevolence Chapter No. 46, R. A. M. and both he and his wife are members of Unity Chapter No. 58, O. E. S.

Mr. Clark married November 27, 1872, Elizabeth Stanton, who was born in Piscataquis county, Maine, February 21, 1854, a daughter of George W. and Hannah (Lord) Stanton, both natives of Maine. Her parents moved from Maine to Dodge county, Wisconsin, in 1856, and there her father was for many years successfully engaged in farming, later, however, embarking in the grain business at Waupun, where he resided until his death, at the age of seventy-nine years, in 1893. His wife preceded him to the better world, dying in 1885, when but fifty-nine years of age. Of the six children born of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Stanton but three survive, namely: Joseph E. Stanton, of Appleton, Wisconsin; Elizabeth, now Mrs. Clark; and George W., of Seattle, Washington. Mr. and Mrs. Clark are the parents of four children, namely: Edith L., wife of Frank Kirsh, of Everett, Washington; George J., teller in the First National Bank of Los Angeles, California; William B.; and S. Beatrice.

LAMBERT W. PHILLIPS.

An eminently useful and highful esteemed citizen of Mason City, Lambert W. Phillips is a man of undisputed integrity, and during his long residence in this vicinity has won the confidence of his fellow townsmen, whom he is now serving acceptably as county treasurer of Cerro Gordo county. A son of the late Charles H. Phillips, he was born April 16, 1855, in Cattaraugus county, New York, coming on the paternal side of good old New England stock.

A native of Massachusetts, Charles H. Phillips spent a part of his earlier life in New York state. In the summer of 1865 he moved with his family to Ripon, Wisconsin, where he remained just about a year. In June, 1866, again taking up the line of march, he made an overland trip to Iowa, making the journey, according to the custom of that day, with teams of horses and oxen, one of which, loaded with household goods, was driven up Main street, Mason City, by his son, Lambert W., a lad of eleven years. Locating on section nine, Lincoln township, he purchased one hundred acres of land that was still for the most part in its virgin wildness and began the arduous task of establishing a home in a new and undeveloped country. He succeeded well in his efforts, bought additional land, and was there prosperously employed in agricultural pursuits until his death, in 1898. His wife, whose maiden name was Almira Blackmore, was born in 1836, in New York state, and is now living in Clear Lake, Iowa. To them nine children were born, seven of whom survive, as follows: Lambert W., the special subject of this brief personal notice; Lester E., residing in Michigan; Norman W., a successful physician in Clear Lake, Iowa; Cora, wife of W. H. Heniman, of Clear Lake; Nina, wife of I. L. Paulson, of Clear Lake; Edwin, of Lincoln township; and A. B., one of the leading physicians of Clear Lake.

After coming with his parents to Cerro Gordo county, Lambert W. Phillips attended the winter terms of the district schools, in the summer time assisting in the improvement of the parental homestead. He subsequently taught school a few winter terms, farming for himself the remainder of the year. Not at all caring to make farming his life work, he accepted a position in the Clear Lake Bank, where he was employed several years. In 1893 Mr. Phillips was made deputy county treasurer, and in 1897 was elected county treasurer of Cerro Gordo county, a position of responsibility to which he was re-elected in 1899, holding the office four years or two terms. He subsequently established himself in the real estate and insurance business in Mason City, and in April,

1909, on account of the death of the county treasurer, was appointed county treasurer to fill out the unexpired term.

On December 24, 1885, Mr. Phillips was united in marriage with Alice A. Payne, who was born in Wisconsin September 15, 1863, and of the children born of their union two are living, Laura and Clarence.

Politically Mr. Phillips has ever been a firm supporter of the principles of the Republican party. Fraternally he is a member of Benevolence Lodge, No. 145, A. F. & A. M.; of Benevolence Chapter, No. 46, R. A. M.; of Antioch Commandery, No. 43, K. T.; and is a charter member of Cerro Gordo Lodge, No. 70, K. of P. Mr. and Mrs. Phillips attend the Congregational church.

WILLIAM J. EGLOFF, M. D.

Cerro Gordo county has reason to find satisfaction in the sterling personnel and marked technical ability of those who represent the medical profession within her borders, and numbered among the leading physicians and surgeons of the county is Dr. Egloff, who is engaged in the active practice of his profession in Mason City, with offices in his fine building at 121 East State street. He is one of the loyal and public spirited citizens of his native state, commands a secure place in popular esteem and confidence, and his success in his chosen vocation has been of unequivocal order.

Dr. Egloff was born at Cedar Falls, Black Hawk county, Iowa, on the 25th of January, 1863, and is a son of William and Marie A. (Brandle) Egloff, both of whom are now deceased. The father was born in Alsace-Lorraine, which was at that time still a province of France, from which country it was wrested at the time of the France-Prussian war. William Egloff was reared and educated in his native land and there became a citizen of prominence and influence, in which connection it may be noted that he held the office of judge, through appointment by the government. In 1856 he immigrated to America, and within the same year he took up his residence at Manchester, Delaware county, Iowa. He was a lawyer by profession, but after coming to Iowa he turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, with which he was actively identified for a number of years. He moved from Delaware county to Black Hawk county, where he remained until 1871, when he came to Mason City and entered the employ of the Iowa Central Railroad, with whose local service he continued to be identified until his death, in 1881, at the age of sixty-seven years. His wife was born at Passau, in the kingdom of Bavaria, Germany, where their

marriage was solemnized. After he had established his home in America his wife joined him, and she passed the closing years of her life in Mason City, where she died in 1895, at the age of seventy-two years. The parents of Dr. Egloff were devout communicants of the Catholic church and in politics the father gave his allegiance to the Republican party. He was a man of fine intellectuality and he ever commanded the implicit confidence and esteem of all with whom he came in contact. Of the children Dr. Egloff was the tenth in order of birth, two died in infancy, and concerning the others the following brief data are entered: Marie E., is the widow of Samuel J. Hunt and is a popular teacher in the schools of Salt Lake City, Utah; Leontine, is the wife of Lucius M. Bassett, who is principal of one of the public schools in the city of Chicago; Minnie, is the wife of John B. Long, of Kimball, South Dakota; Pauline, is the wife of Albert A. DuBois and they reside in the state of Oregon; Eugene C., was freight agent for the Illinois Central Railroad at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, at the time of his death; Joseph was the owner and operator of a flour mill at Monnd City, Kansas, at the time of his death; and Max G., a retired railroad man, resides at Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Dr. Egloff was eight years of age at the time of the family removal to Mason City, to whose schools he is indebted for his preliminary educational discipline. In preparation for the work of his chosen profession he went to the great western metropolis and entered the Chicago Medical College, which is now the medical department of Northwestern University. He completed the prescribed course in this well ordered institution, in which he was graduated with the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1887, as president of his class. In May of the preceding year he had successfully passed the required examination before the Illinois state board of health and he had initiated the practice of his profession prior to his graduation. During 1886-7 he was engaged in the dispensary of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Company in Chicago, and he then returned to Mason City, where he became associated in practice with Dr. Chauncey H. Smith, to whom a memorial tribute is given on other pages of this work.

Dr. Egloff has given himself with all of zeal and earnestness to the work of his noble and exacting profession and he has not been denied a generous measure of success and prestige. He is recognized as a skilled and resourceful physician and surgeon and he keeps in close touch with the advances made in both departments of his profession. He is a valued member of the Cerro Gordo County Medical Society, the Austin Flint-Cedar Valley Medical

Society, the Iowa State Medical Society, and the American Medical Association. From 1904 to 1908 he was councilor of the Iowa State Medical Society for the Fourth congressional district of Iowa, and during the last year of his incumbency he was chairman of the state board of councilors. In 1910 Dr. Egloff was elected first vice president of the Iowa State Medical Society and in the same year he was appointed one of the five members representing the state society at the second national conservation congress held in the city of St. Paul, Minnesota, in October of that year. He is also identified with the American Association of Railway Surgeons, being district surgeon for the C. & N. W. Railroad and local surgeon for the C. M. & St. P. Railroad. In politics the Doctor is found aligned as a staunch supporter of the cause of the Republican party, and he is identified with various social organizations of representative order.

On the 12th of February, 1889, was solemnized the marriage of Dr. Egloff to Miss Harriet E. Smith, who was born and reared in Cerro Gordo county and who is the daughter of the late Dr. Chauncey H. Smith, who is the subject of an individual memoir elsewhere in this volume and with whom Dr. Egloff was formerly associated in practice. Dr. and Mrs. Egloff became the parents of four children: Marie Agatha, who was born January 12, 1896, died in infancy; Max Allen, who was born on the 21st of March, 1898, is attending the public schools, as is also William Channeey, who was born on the 16th of March, 1901; and Martha Janet was born March 16, 1910. The family is one of prominence and distinctive popularity in connection with social affairs in Mason City, and as a citizen Dr. Egloff is liberal and progressive, giving his support to the measures and enterprises tending to advance the general welfare of the community.

ARTHUR R. SALE.

If for no other reason than that implied in his splendid services in behalf of the cause of popular education in Cerro Gordo county this well known citizen of Mason City merits recognition in this historical compilation, but further than this he has been active and influential in connection with public and business affairs and is now secretary and treasurer of the Iowa Retail Hardware Association and secretary of the Iowa Hardware Mutual, an insurance organization of unique order.

Mr. Sale was born at Wokingham, Berkshire, England, on the 20th of October, 1857, and it may be noted that the initial "R" in



A.R.Sale

his name was assumed by him for the sake of euphony. As found on the register in which his birth is recorded his second name is given as Swineherd, the family name of his maternal great-grand father, to whom reference will be made in a later paragraph. Arthur R. Sale is a son of Rev. Stephen and Mabel M. (Knott) Sale, the former of whom was born at Wokingham, England, and the latter at Dover. Their marriage was solemnized in 1856 and Mrs. Sale's paternal grandfather was a warden of the Cinque Ports, in which capacity he had the distinction of piloting the English man-of-war "Bellerophon" at the time that this vessel had the great Napoleon on board as a prisoner. The gold snuff box presented to him by Napoleon is one of the valued heirlooms of the family.

In 1865 Rev. Stephen Sale removed with his wife and three sons—Arthur, Harry and Herbert—to the United States and settled at Belvidere, Illinois. He was graduated in Spurgeon's College, in the city of London, and in his native land was ordained a clergyman of the Baptist church. He held various pastoral charges after coming to America, including those of Waterloo and Wanpaca, Wisconsin, and Mason City and Glenwood, Iowa. He was the first regular pastor of the First Baptist church of Mason City, Iowa, an incumbency which he assumed in 1870, and he passed the closing years of his life at Mason City, where he died in February, 1904, at the venerable age of sixty-five years. The mother survives and resides at Mason City, but his brothers are deceased.

Arthur R. Sale was afforded exceptional educational advantages, as he attended in turn Cedar Valley Seminary, at Osage, Iowa; Wayland University, at Beaver Dam, Wisconsin; Des Moines University, at Des Moines, Iowa; and the Iowa State University, at Iowa City. He attained distinctive success and prestige in the pedagogic profession and in 1878 he became a teacher of the high school at Mason City. From 1880 to 1885 he taught school at Portland, this state; from 1887 to 1890 he had charge of the grammar schools in Mason City; from 1890 to 1893 he was county superintendent of schools for Cerro Gordo county; and from 1893 to 1901 he was city superintendent of schools of Mason City. In each of these positions he proved himself well equipped as an executive and educator and his services as county superintendent of public schools of Cerro Gordo county proved of inestimable benefit in systematizing their work and bringing them up to the high standard which they have since maintained. It was during his incumbency of this office that the first steps were taken in classifying and grading the work of the county schools, and during his

work as superintendent of the public schools of Mason City the first high school building was here erected, besides which the Grant school was founded and its building erected. He also organized the manual training department, introduced the physical and natural science laboratories in the high school and he also effected the organization of the departments of physical culture, drawing and voice culture in the graded departments of the city schools.

In politics Mr. Sale is found aligned as a staunch supporter of the cause of the Republican party and he is admirably fortified in his opinions as to matters of public polity as he is a man of fine intellectuality and broad mental ken. He served as city clerk of Mason City from 1880 to 1887 and within his incumbency of this position he had charge of the construction accounts during the installation of the Water Works System. In 1885 he organized the Denison Hose Company, which became a valuable adjunct of the city fire department. In 1903, upon the organization of the Iowa Hardware Mutual, he became its secretary, of which office he has since been incumbent, besides which he is secretary and treasurer of the Iowa Retail Hardware Association, which is affiliated with the National Retail Hardware Association. The Iowa Hardware Mutual building is a fine structure and is one of the best buildings in Mason City. This was completed in 1910, is of stone and pressed brick construction, two stories in height and twenty-four by one hundred and twenty feet in dimensions. This is the home office building of the insurance company and also of the Iowa Retail Hardware Association. It has the distinction of being the first building of this character erected in the west. Mr. Sale is an official of the Mason City Building & Loan Association of Mason City, the Cemetery Association and the Masonic Building Company of this city. He is affiliated with the lodge, chapter and commandery of the Masonic fraternity and is deeply interested in the work and teachings of this time-honored organization.

On the 4th of September, 1901, at Boscobel, Wisconsin, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Sale to Miss Jennie Graham Murphy, who was born and reared in the Badger state and who is a daughter of John B. Murphy, who served with distinction for four years in the Civil war, having been a member of the Seventh Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, which gained renown with the Iron Brigade and which was attached to the Army of the Potomac. Mrs. Sale was educated at the Platteville Normal School, at Platteville, Wisconsin, and prior to her marriage she was principal of the Washington school in Mason City, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Sale have one daughter, Marjorie Helen, who was born on the 7th of

November, 1902. Mr. and Mrs. Sale are prominent and popular factors in connection with the best social activities of Mason City, where their circle of friends is coincident with that of their acquaintances.

DANIEL DOUGHERTY.

It is a conservative statement to say that no one is more closely and prominently identified with the history of Dougherty township, Cerro Gordo county, than is Daniel Dougherty, pioneer and retired farmer now residing in the town of Dougherty. When it is known that he was the first permanent settler within this tract of country it will be easy to see how Dougherty township received its name. During the early days he was the best posted man concerning land in the southern part of the county. He acted as land agent for years and was instrumental in getting many settlers to take up land here. He employed no half-way methods, and to secure the first family to locate in the township he went one hundred miles to Clayton county and moved them. He brought a great many people from Pennsylvania and Wisconsin and often helped them to get started after they came. Daniel Dougherty is a self-made man, and his interesting life should be an inspiration to every youth whose ambitions to get on in the world are not matched by his worldly fortunes. As he graphically puts it, he landed on American shores with nothing but a pair of hands, good health, and the determination to win. And he has succeeded in every way. Before he partially divided with his sons he owned all of section 36. He enjoys the consideration of his fellow citizens and he has held various offices.

Daniel Dougherty was born in county Donegal, Ireland, February 18, 1829. He is the son of Hugh and Mary (Maloy) Dougherty. His father died in his native land, but in 1884, when Mr. Dougherty was in Ireland on a visit, he persuaded his aged mother to return with him and she made her home with him until her death. There were eight children, two of whom are living, Mr. Dougherty and James also a resident of Dougherty township. The subject of the biography was reared on a farm in the Emerald Isle and received only a meagre education. Although circumstances were adverse the spark of ambition burned in his breast and in 1851 he severed home ties and came to the United States, landing at Philadelphia after a voyage which had been of six weeks and three days duration. He probably did not foresee even in his wildest flights of imagination that when he went back on a visit

in 1884 he would make the voyage in six days. For a short time after arriving Mr. Dougherty made his livelihood by working in a foundry, and in 1853 he moved to Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, and found employment in the iron works at that place. In 1856 he came to Decorah, Iowa, where the United States land office was located, and surveyed the northern tier of counties to Hancock and southeast to Cerro Gordo county and located one hundred and sixty acres in section 36, in what is now Dougherty township. He returned to Decorah and entered it and then went back to Montgomery, Pennsylvania, where he resumed his old work. In the fall of 1858 he returned to Clayton county, Iowa, where he farmed and while there he was elected county supervisor and served two terms.

In the spring of 1863 Mr. Dougherty took up his residence upon his own farm in Cerro Gordo county. He began at once upon the work of improving the wild land and put up a log house, in which he lived until 1869. In the latter year he erected a frame house, hauling the lumber from Charles City. He prospered steadily and as said before at one time owned all of section 36. Although he had been warned that apples could not be raised in Iowa, in 1872 he set out an orchard of one thousand trees and has demonstrated that this luscious fruit can be raised here, for he has sold from twelve hundred to thirteen hundred dollars worth of apples in a season. He has also been successful in the raising and feeding of stock.

Mr. Dougherty brought all his influence to bear to have a railroad built through the township, and when the Chicago & North Western came through he sold the company the town site for a mere song. The first school house was built in 1864 near Mr. Dougherty's old homestead and in 1869 was moved to its present location. All his life Mr. Dougherty has held aloft the Democratic standard and has taken an active interest in the affairs of township and county. He has held numerous offices, and upon the incorporation of Dougherty as a town he was elected mayor and served in this capacity for two terms. From 1868 to 1871 he was a member of the county board of supervisors, was school director for twenty-five years, justice of the peace for an extended period and served at different times as township trustee and assessor. He takes great interest in the affairs and projects of the Rockwell and Dougherty Farmers' Co-operative Society. He is affiliated with the Knights of Columbus in their organization at Mason City, and he and his family are faithful members of St. Patrick's Catholic church.

Mr. Dougherty was married in Ireland May 9, 1848, to Miss Mary Gallagher, born March 29, 1829, (as her husband puts it) "just across the fence from him." About three years later they came to America. They have outdone even the usual pioneer record in the matter of large families, their union having been blessed by the birth of sixteen children. They are: Hugh, living in North Dakota; Margaret, who died in infancy; Charles, who makes his home in Dougherty; as do the four following, Patrick, Daniel J., James and Bernard; Edward J., pastor of the Holy Family church at Mason City; William and William M., both of whom died in infancy; Joseph and John who live at home; Mary, wife of John H. Wade, of Des Moines; Margaret, at home; Annie, deceased; and Theresa, at home.

In 1898 Mr. Dougherty purchased eighty acres of land near Rockwell, and here built a home and moved to it, this step being made for the benefit of the younger children that they might be nearer the Rockwell schools. In 1902 he removed to his home in Dougherty, where he now resides and enjoys the blessings of a fine old age.

PETER P. STEIL.

Peter P. Steil, whose post office address is Mason City, Iowa, has lived on his present farm near this place since 1876, when he came here with his father and family from Illinois. Mr. Steil is a native of Stephenson county, Illinois, born September 12, 1863, son of Peter and Magdalena (Kehm) Steil, natives of Hessen-Darmstadt, Germany. Peter Steil was born January 20, 1821; was married in the old country, and a few years later, with his wife and two children, George and Elizabeth, came to America, landing in Stephenson county, Illinois, in 1850. For thirteen years he carried on farming in Illinois, then he sold out and came over into Iowa, settling first in Chickasaw county, where he bought eighty acres. This farm he subsequently sold, and in the spring of 1876 came to Portland township, Cerro Gordo county, and bought the farm of one hundred and twenty acres which is now owned by his son, Peter P. Here the senior Mr. Steil was successfully engaged in farming until his death, January 31, 1890, at the age of sixty-nine years. His widow survived him until December 12, 1909, when she died at about the age of eighty-three years. Both were members of the German Evangelical church. The two children they brought with them to this country died in Illinois, and four other children, two sons and two daughters, were added

to their family in America, namely: Eva, wife of Adrian Mills, of Fresno, California; Lena, wife of A. D. Krusenmark, of St. Paul Park, Minnesota; Peter P., the subject of this sketch; and Jacob, a farmer of Falls township, Cerro Gordo county.

At the time of the removal of the Steil family to Cerro Gordo county, Peter P. was a boy of fourteen years, and here he has since been engaged in farming, having contributed his part to the development of the land and now having one of the best improved farms in the vicinity.

On July 13, 1892, Mr. Steil married Miss Amanda Nopsehall, a native of Valparaiso, Indiana, born in 1876, daughter of Gastave and Pauline (Yabu) Nopsehall, both natives of Germany, born in Prussia and Holstein respectively, from whence, when children, they came with their parents to America, the mother's people settling in New York state and later moving to Valparaiso, Indiana, the father's people going direct to Valparaiso. In 1887 Mrs. Steil's parents came to Iowa and took up their residence in Portland township, Cerro Gordo county, where they made their home until the mother's death, in the fall of 1903, at the age of forty-eight years. The father, now retired, is a resident of California. To Mr. and Mrs. Steil three children have been given: Alma, Clarence and Della, the last named having died in infancy.

Politically Mr. Steil is a Republican, and has served efficiently in several local offices. Fraternally he is identified with the M. W. A., the Yeomen and the Mystic Toilers, the last two in Mason City and the first in Portland. Mrs. Steil also belongs to the Mystic Toilers, and both are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which Mrs. Steil was reared, her parents having been worthily identified with that denomination.

CAPTAIN HENRY IRVING SMITH.

Captain Henry Irving Smith, an honored veteran of the Civil war now retired from active life and residing at Mason City, Iowa, is a native of Nottingham, England, born May 4, 1840. He is a son of William and Mary Ann (Moore) Smith, the former a native of Dumfrieshire, Scotland, and the latter of Nottingham. William Smith was a traveling man and died when his son Henry I. was small. In 1849 the mother, who was well educated and a woman of unusual ability, brought her four children to the United States, stopping a few months in Canada on the way. She spent a year at Buffalo, New York, and then located at Geneva, Illinois, where

she supported her family by needle work, in which line she was very proficient. Henry was the oldest son and was soon able to work and help support the family, the others working as soon as they were able. At the death of the father's brother in Scotland, the children were left an inheritance of about five hundred dollars apiece and on April 1, 1855, the family started west, arriving at Shell Rock river, Falls township, Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, in the latter part of the month. They bought one hundred and twenty acres of land, which they began improving. They erected a log house, in which they lived two years with nothing but a dirt floor, and at first were able to break and cultivate but a few acres at a time. Henry, as the oldest son, worked for others a great deal, and the younger children, including the daughters, raised the crops and assisted with the other farm work. They endured the usual hardships and privations incident to pioneer life, but all were ambitious and energetic, and saw a bright future before them.

Besides Henry I. Smith, the other children were: Peter, who served in the same regiment as Henry, was wounded at Shiloh, from the effects of which he died in 1862; Maggie Jane married Captain F. M. Gregory, who served in the Eighth Illinois Cavalry, and they now reside at Mason City; Mary Anetta, married Ben A. Brown, who died in 1908, and she now lives in Wisconsin.

As a young man Captain Smith worked considerably at teaming between McGregor and Charles City. He helped with the work on the home farm when he was not employed elsewhere, and the second year they planted three acres of wheat, as the seasons went by increasing their operations and in a few years were able to sell some. The saw and grist mills were then some distance away, in Chickasaw county, and at first their nearest market was at Manchester, later being at Cedar Falls, Janesville, and finally at Charles City, the last named being thirty miles from their farm. Besides the hard work and privations in the early days they suffered much from ague. At the beginning of the Civil war, when the two sons enlisted, the mother leased the farm and lived some years in Rock Falls. Later the farm was sold and another farm purchased with the proceeds. The mother spent her later years with her children, and died at the home of a daughter at Clear Lake, Iowa, in 1900. She was greatly loved and honored by her children, to whom her life had been an inspiration, and her memory is very dear to them. In religious belief she was a Unitarian.

Captain Smith was the first man to enlist from Cerro Gordo county, the date of his enrollment being July 8, 1861. He took six men from the neighborhood with him and they joined Company

B, Seventh Iowa Infantry, the nearest recruiting station being in Chickasaw county. They were mustered into service at Burlington, Iowa, July 24, and with the Fifth and Sixth regiments went at once to St. Louis and to the front. They served under General Grant at Shiloh and later in the Fifteenth and Sixteenth army corps, being mainly in the Army of Tennessee. Captain Smith participated in many important engagements, being present at the first battle of Belmont, Grant's first battle in the war. He was wounded in that battle and again slightly so at Corinth, in the fall of 1862. While recuperating at Belmont he did recruiting for a time at Fort Madison, Iowa, but was after that always with his regiment and on the fighting line. Besides many skirmishes, he took part in twenty-six important engagements. At the time of his enlistment he was chosen corporal and served in all the offices up to and including the rank of captain, which he received during the latter part of his service. During the famous "March to the Sea" he commanded his company. After two and a half years of service, with most of his regiment Captain Smith accepted a veteran furlough, visited home with his company, then returned to the field and served to the end of the war, being mustered out July 14, 1865, at Louisville, Kentucky.

Upon his return home Captain Smith spent a year in farming, but was not in a physical condition that would enable him to stand hard manual labor, and accepted the office of deputy county treasurer in the fall of 1866. He served two years, in 1869 was elected treasurer and served four years—two terms. In 1873, in company with J. B. W. Montague, Captain Smith engaged in the insurance business and they purchased the Cerro Gordo Bank, which they conducted several years. Later they organized the First National Bank, of which Captain Smith served as president during the twenty years of the first charter. The success of this bank was phenomenal from the start, and with it were identified some of the most substantial business men of the county. Captain Smith resigned from the presidency some eight years ago, since which he has been retired from business. He organized the Mason City Wholesale Grocery Company and served for years as president of the same. He served six years as director of the State Agricultural Society and served some time as councilman and member of the school board at Mason City. In politics he has always been a staunch Republican.

Since his marriage in 1868, Captain Smith has been a resident of Mason City, where he erected two or more residences and now owns a fine home at the corner of Adams and State streets. For

years he owned a fine stock in Falls township, making a specialty of Short-horn cattle and other high-grade stock, but a few years since sold this property and for some time has been in poor health.

On May 14, 1868, Captain Smith married at Mason City Miss Delight E. Bogardus, who was born in Westerlo, New York, May 24, 1845, daughter of Robert B. and Maria (Vermilyea) Bogardus and sister of E. R. Bogardus, mentioned elsewhere in this work. Five children have blessed this union, namely: William Irving, born in April, 1869, engaged in the lumber business and now in British Columbia, married Edith G. Hieks and they have two children, Gladys, born in 1897, and Irving G., born in 1900; Miss Lou D., born in September, 1872, is at home; H. Carl, born in April, 1877, has been in the banking business several years, was conducting a ranch in Dakota some years, and is now a resident of Mason City, married to Adelaide Stannard; Robert Percy, born November 1, 1879, assistant cashier in the First National Bank, of Mason City, where he has been employed ten years, married Mildred Beebe, and they have two children, Alice Elizabeth, aged four, and Robert Henry, aged two; Warren B., born in April, 1881, married Miss Helen Atkins, and they have one daughter, Marian, aged two years. Robert Percy Smith was a member of the Iowa National Guard. He was at school in Minnesota when the Spanish-American war began, and served one year in the Philippines, his entire regiment receiving medals for meritorious conduct from President McKinley. Warren B. Smith is now residing in Pollock, South Dakota, where he is manager of a branch of the North Star Lumber Company and handles lumber, furniture and hardware supplies.

Captain and Mrs. Smith are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is affiliated with the G. A. R., C. H. Huntley Post, No. 42, Army of the Tennessee, and she is a member of the Women's Relief Corps. Both are well known and have a large circle of friends. Captain Smith has been one of the most prominent men in Mason City since he has been living there and has been identified with its best interests. No man is more highly esteemed in the community, not only for his service in the war, but for his steadfast good citizenship and high character. He has a medal of Honor Legion, dated June, 1897.

DANIEL J. DOUGHERTY.

Daniel J. Dougherty, son and namesake of the stalwart Iowa pioneer, Daniel Dougherty, is one of the county's progressive agriculturists, owning a well improved farm of three hundred and sixty

acres located in section 36 of the township which bears the family name. He was born in Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, May 3, 1858, and was a lad five years of age when his parents came to Cerro Gordo county. Here he grew to manhood and received a good graded school education. He remained at home until his marriage in 1896, assisting in the affairs of his father's estate and he also engaged in the cultivation of land of his own which he had purchased when about twenty years of age. His home is situated upon a farm of two hundred and forty acres, all of which he has improved himself, and the place is very modern and attractive. He owns a hundred and twenty acres elsewhere and engages in general farming and the raising and feeding of cattle and hogs.

Daniel Dougherty like his father, gives an unfaltering support to the Democratic party. He has served as school director and has been secretary of the school board for twenty-five years. At the present day he holds the office of township trustee. He is a progressive agriculturist and belongs to the Farmers' Co-operative Society of Dougherty. He and his family are communicants of St. Patrick's Catholic church.

On September 23, 1896, Mr. Dougherty took as his wife Miss Mary M. Mullen, born in Franklin county, Iowa, February 28, 1872. A fine family of six children is growing to young manhood and womanhood beneath the home roof. They are by names, Cecelia, John L., Lewella, Robert, Edward and Daniel J. Mrs. Dougherty's parents were Robert and Ellen (Monaghan) Mullen, the former born in Stephenson county, Illinois, August 13, 1841, and the latter in Ireland, in 1846. Their marriage date was February 20, 1870.

Mrs. Dougherty is the eldest in a family of eight children, the others being, Ellen, wife of Barney Dougherty of Dougherty township; John, residing in Dougherty; Margaret, wife of Michael McGee, a resident of Floyd county, Iowa; Walter living in Aredale, Iowa; Sarah, at home; Charles, living in Kentucky; and Daniel, at home. In 1845 Mr. Mullen came to Green county, Wisconsin, two yoke of oxen constituting the means of transportation. He was educated in the graded schools and left home in 1869, coming to Franklin county, Iowa. He purchased one hundred and sixty acres of wild land, and not being in the least afraid of hard work soon had it in a productive condition. He is a man of high executive ability and a farmer who recognizes the value of employing scientific methods and he has come to be one of the large land owners of Cerro Gordo county, where he owns nine hundred and twenty acres. He also possesses one hundred and sixty acres in

Bullen county and one hundred and sixty acres in Floyd county. In 1892 Mr. Mullen retired and came to reside in Dougherty. He is vice president of the First National Bank and devotes much of his time to looking after his land.

JAMES E. E. MARKLEY.

On other pages of this work is made brief mention of the representative law firm of Blythe, Markley, Rule & Smith, of which the subject of this sketch is a member, and he is known as one of the able and distinguished members of the bar of Iowa as well as one of the progressive and influential citizens of Mason City, the thriving and attractive capital city of Cerro Gordo county.

Mr. Markley finds pleasure in reverting to the fine old Buckeye commonwealth as the place of his nativity, and is fully appreciative of the amusing paraphrase once made by Senator Chauncey M. Depew in connection with a familiar epigram. His statement was to this effect: "Some men are born great, some achieve greatness, and some are born in the state of Ohio." Under this last element Mr. Markley finds classification, as he was born on a farm in Knox county, Ohio, on the 12th of April, 1857. He is a son of James M. and Catherine (Ankeny) Markley, representatives of honored pioneer families of that state, where the father accumulated a very considerable fortune before he decided to cast in his lot with the pioneers of Iowa. He moved with his family to this state in the autumn of 1866 and established his home at Cedar Falls, in Black Hawk county. There he invested a large amount of capital in land and various industrial and commercial enterprises, and he also made a specialty of extending loans on approved real estate security. James M. Markley was a man of great business acumen and his life was guided and governed by the highest principles of integrity and honor, so that he was never denied the full measure of popular confidence and esteem. He continued his residence at Cedar Falls until his death, which occurred in the year 1872. He was a Republican in his political proclivities, and his wife a zealous member of the Dunkard church. Of their children three sons and four daughters are now living.

James E. E. Markley, the immediate subject of this review, was a lad of nine years at the time of the family removal to Iowa, and he was reared to maturity at Cedar Falls, where he gained his preliminary educational discipline in the public schools. At the age of seventeen years he was matriculated in Cornell College, at Mount Vernon, this state, in which he prosecuted his higher academic studies for a period of three years. His alma mater

later conferred upon him the degree of Master of Arts. In 1878 Mr. Markley was graduated in the law department of the State University of Iowa, from which he received the degree of Bachelor of Laws, and in the following year, to fortify himself more thoroughly for the work of his exacting profession, he took an advanced post-graduate course. He was admitted to the Iowa bar in 1878, and in the fall of 1879 he initiated the active practice of his profession at Marshalltown, where he remained until September, 1881, when he located in Mason City, where he became associated in practice with James E. Blythe, who has since been his able and honored coadjutor. The various changes in the firm are noted in the article dedicated thereto elsewhere in this volume. He has a secure vantage place as one of the versatile and successful advocates and well fortified counselors engaged in practice in Cerro Gordo county, and he has appeared in much of the important litigation in the courts of this section of the state. He was associated with his professional confrere, Mr. Blythe, in the erection of the Park Inn, a fine modern brick and stone structure that has added materially to the attractions and business precedence of Mason City, and in this building his firm has elegantly appointed offices.

In politics Mr. Markley was formerly aligned as a staunch supporter of the cause of the Democratic party, and he was an effective worker in behalf of its principles, having appeared as a speaker in various campaigns and having been twice chairman of its state conventions in Iowa. Of later years he has maintained an independent political attitude and has given his support to the men and measures meeting the approval of his judgment, but he is still a firm believer in the fundamental principles of Democracy. He is affiliated with Cerro Gordo Lodge, No. 70, Knights of Pythias, and both he and his wife hold membership in the First Church of Christ, Scientist.

In Mason City, on the 1st of May, 1888, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Markley to Miss Lily Emsley, daughter of the late Thomas G. Emsley, an honored pioneer and long an influential citizen of Mason City, of whom mention is made on other pages of this work. Mr. and Mrs. Markley have two daughters, Marion E., who is a graduate of Wellesley College, and Doris, who is attending school at Walnut Hill, Natick, Massachusetts.

CHARLES H. O'NEIL.

For many years an important factor in developing and advancing the agricultural interests of Cerro Gordo county, Charles H. O'Neil, residing at No. 1131 Fourth avenue, South, Mason City

is now somewhat retired from active business and is enjoying the comforts and pleasures of modern life. He was born March 11, 1844, in Clinton county, New York, a son of Charles and Jane (Blair) O'Neil, coming of Scotch-Irish stock. Born in Ireland, Charles O'Neil lived there until after his marriage with the bonnie Scotch lass, Jane Blair. Emigrating to the United States, he lived for a while in New York state, from there moving in 1851 to Wisconsin, where he bought land and improved the fine home-stead property on which both he and his faithful wife spent their remaining days. They were people of worth and faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal church. They reared six sons and six daughters, all of whom married and had families, and of whom five daughters and three sons are still living.

Reared to agricultural pursuits, Charles H. O'Neil bought land in Wisconsin when a young man and there began life for himself as a farmer. Selling out in 1869, he came across the country from Fond du Lac with a team to Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, locating in Lime Creek township in October of that year, in pioneer times, when the buildings were few and far between, but little evidence of the present prosperous condition being then visible. He invested his money in raw land in Lime Creek township, and in the following of the occupation of his choice has since met with eminent success, having handled various farms in that locality. He now owns valuable farming property in Lincoln township and a valuable farm in Worth county. One farm of four hundred acres Mr. O'Neil rents, but the remainder of his land is operated by himself and his sons.

Mr. O'Neil married in 1866 in Minnesota Marcella Beidleman, who was born at Janesville, Rock county, Wisconsin, in 1848, a daughter of Isaac and Eliza (Simkins) Beidleman, who moved from Chemung county, New York, to Wisconsin in the early '30s. Her parents moved to Dodge county, Minnesota, in 1864, and there her mother died. Her father subsequently returned to New York state, and there spent his last years. Mrs. O'Neil is one of a family of five children, three daughters and two sons, of whom two daughters and one son are living. Mr. and Mrs. O'Neil are the parents of five children, namely, Melville L., Ella, Leslie D., Guy Victor and Chester Rollo. Melville L., who was nine months old when the family came to Iowa, was graduated from the medical department of Drake University and is now a successful physician in San Francisco, California. He is married and has one daughter. Ella, wife of Eugene Van Note, a prosperous farmer of Lime Creek township, owning five hundred and thirty-two acres of land, has

five children. Leslie D., prosperously engaged in farming at Freeman station, is married and has two children. Guy V., engaged in farming in Lincoln township, is married and has one child. Chester R., living at home, is associated in farming with his father. An adherent of the Republican party in politics, Mr. O'Neil served twenty years as trustee of Lime Creek township, and held all of the other local offices, including that of school director. He attends the Methodist Episcopal church, and is a liberal contributor towards its support.

IRA IRVING NICOL, M. D.

One of the prominent physicians of Mason City, Iowa, is Dr. Ira Irving Nicol, who has identified himself with many financial enterprises in the vicinity and has given his support to many movements for the promotion of the general welfare of Mason City and the surrounding country. Dr. Nicol was born February 13, 1864, of Scotch-Teutonic parentage, and for the first ten years of his life he lived on a stock farm. He attended district school and then worked his way through high school while an apprentice for an apothecary. Upon his graduation from school he received a teacher's certificate in Iowa. He completed his course in pharmacy, and upon passing the examination which was then required before the Iowa State Medical Examining Board he was complimented as being the youngest apothecary who had been examined in Iowa at that time. He accepted a position in the manufacturing department of the Western Chemical Company at Kansas City, Missouri, putting up their preparations. He also held similar positions with stores in various cities until he took up the regular study of medicine, under the supervision of Dr. Calvin Blythe, a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania. While living in Woodburn Dr. Nicol was elected and served two years as mayor and two years as township clerk.

Dr. Nicol graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Keokuk, Iowa, which was at one time the medical department of the State University, but is now consolidated with Drake University, at Des Moines, Iowa. Soon after the first railroad went through North English, Iowa, Dr. Nicol and his wife settled in that town, where he purchased property and contributed his share to the growth and development of local resources. At his own expense he circulated the first petition for election that resulted in the incorporation of the town and he was instrumental in having the township divided into two voting precincts, with



I S Nicol

North English as one of them. He donated one of the finest lots in the town as a building site for the Methodist parsonage, served several years as a member of the board of education, and assisted in the establishment of a high school and the erection of the splendid high school building that is used at present. At one time he owned the North English *Record*, still published in the town. He erected a frame building for the post office, and when that burned he erected a fine brick building for the town and the government, which was also destroyed by fire in 1905. He furnished the money with which the Masons erected their present lodge building, and was interested in many other organizations. At the time Dr. Nicol first located in North English there was no bank there and the Commercial National Bank of Chicago gave him the privilege of selling drafts on them for the convenience of merchants and other business men, which was greatly appreciated by the community. He soon assisted in establishing a bank there, known as The North English Savings Bank, and he is still one of the principal owners of this sound financial institution. Upon leaving North English Dr. Nicol located in Ottumwa, where he was associated with Dr. D. C. Brockman in the practice of medicine and surgery. For thirteen years he was a special surgeon for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway Company from Chicago to Omaha and from Omaha to Kansas City. On account of the nature of his work he found it necessary to be legally qualified to practice in Iowa, Illinois and Missouri. He received his certificate for Missouri March 8, 1895, and for Illinois August 12, 1895. At the time the Spanish-American war broke out he and his office associates subscribed to the war fund and offered their services to go to the front as surgeons. He and three other physicians examined, free of charge, all of Company G, of Ottumwa, and all other volunteers as requested by the recruiting officers of Ottumwa.

On September 1, 1898, Dr. Nicol and his family moved to Mason City, Iowa, and the following year he opened an office in the Odd Fellows building on State street. For two years he was local surgeon for the Chicago & Northwestern Railway Company. In 1900, with five others, he organized the present American Brick & Tile Company, of Mason City, an Iowa corporation, with a paid up capital of \$200,000, and having an annual output of 3,600 car-loads of clay material, this being perhaps the largest plant of its kind in the state. Dr. Nicol is president of this company and secretary and treasurer of the Mattson Glove Works of Mason City, also an Iowa corporation. He is secretary and treasurer of the Mason City Hospital Company, which expects some time soon to be able to erect a suitable building to present to the deaconesses, the

Salvation Army or some other charitable organization that provides for the wants of the poor of Mason City and vicinity.

Dr. Nicol married, April 8, 1885, Ida Coppock, daughter of Benjamin and Caroline (Buffington) Coppock, early settlers of Clarke county. Mr. Coppock was a cousin of the two Coppock boys who attended John Brown on his raid in Virginia at the beginning of the war, one of whom was executed with Brown, while the brother escaped to Iowa and Governor Kirkwood refused to give him up to the Virginia authorities. Dr. Nicol and his wife were married at Woodburn and soon after located at North English. They became the parents of two daughters, namely: Bertha C. and Mabel M. Miss Bertha Nicol is a graduate of the Mason City high school and of Northwestern University of Illinois, and took a year of post-graduate work in Europe. She is fitting herself for a teacher of English and eloquence of the State University of Iowa at this time. Miss Mabel graduated from the Mason City high school with the class of 1909 and is now a student of the State University at Iowa City, where she is preparing for a teacher of Latin and German. Dr. Nicol and his wife also claim an adopted daughter, Mrs. Louva (Boyee) Edwards, wife of Dr. Edwards, of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.

Dr. Nicol is a man of strong convictions, slow and deliberate in forming his opinions and always open to plausible argument. Though not a fluent speaker, he can express himself with emphasis, in a plain, terse manner when occasion demands. Those who do not know him well would be surprised to know what a strong sense of humor he possesses, and to know how well he enjoys a joke, being able to tell one himself when it pleases him to do so. In religious belief he is an orthodox Quaker, and he is a member of a family that have always espoused the cause of justice. Both of his grandfathers fought on the American side in the war of 1812. Dr. Nicol served six years as coroner of Cerro Gordo county and is a member of the State Medical and Cerro Gordo County Medical Societies. He is a member of the Blue Lodge of Masons, a Royal Arch Mason, a Knight Templar, a life member of Kaaba Shrine, of Davenport, and a member of the Eastern Star. He is also affiliated with the Odd Fellows.

JOHN CHILSON.

John Chilson, manager of the livery, dray and bus line of the Cadwell & Cadwell Company, Mason City, Iowa, has been connected with this business during the past thirty-four years, his identity

with the company dating from 1876. Mr. Chilson resides with his family at 221 North Michigan street, and is recognized as one of the representative men of the town. Briefly, a review of his life is as follows:

John Chilson was born in Schoharie county, New York, December 4, 1850, son of John and Matilda (Rector) Chilson. Early in the '50s the Chilson family moved west to Walworth county, Wisconsin, and in 1859 came from there to Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, and settled near Mason City, where the father acquired title to some land. At that time Mason City was a small village containing only two stores. About ten years later the father, having improved his land to some extent, sold it and purchased a farm near Clear Lake. To this farm he added until he had three hundred and twenty acres, and here he made his home until shortly before his death, which occurred in 1893, at the age of eighty years. Previous to his coming west he had resided at different times in three counties of his native state, New York. The closing years of his life were spent at the home of a son in Mason township, Cerro Gordo county. His wife died in 1902, also at the age of eighty years. During his early life here John Chilson Sr. was a great hunter and trapper. He voted for Abraham Lincoln, and maintained his allegiance with the Republican party all the rest of his days, at times filling local office, such as township trustee, etc. In his family were six sons and one daughter, of whom two are deceased. Mrs. J. A. Baumgardner is a widow residing at Mason City. Amos died in December, 1909, at his home in Minnesota, at the age of seventy-two years. Jerome is a farmer and stock dealer at Lake Mills, Iowa. Lawson, a veteran of the Civil war, with an experience of nine months in Andersonville and Libby prisons, died shortly after the close of the war, in 1869. Albert went to the far west in 1865 and his exact whereabouts are not known. John was next to the youngest, and the youngest, Delfonzo, is a farmer of Mason City, Iowa.

John Chilson married Miss Eliza Jesanore, a native of Marble Rock, Iowa, where her parents resided for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Chilson have one daughter, Mrs. George O. Haugh, of Minneapolis, Mr. Haugh being connected with the Palace Clothing store of that place. They have one son and one daughter.

Politically Mr. Chilson casts his franchise with the same party his father supported for so many years. Fraternally he is identified with the I. O. O. F., and the K. of P., and both he and his wife belong to the Yeomen. She is also a member of the Rebekahs and the Pythian Sisters, and she and her daughter have membership in the Congregational church.

FRED E. MARSIL.

Fred E. Marsh, a well known citizen of Mason City, Iowa, was born here February 17, 1866, a son of Henry A. and Charlotte (Trevett) Marsh. Henry A. Marsh was a native of Rutland, Vermont. When a young man he came from the "Green Mountain State" to Iowa and took up his residence in Cerro Gordo county, where for a time he worked at his trade, that of carpenter and contractor, and later for nineteen years was engaged in the ice business. He was a party worker in Republican ranks, and, being recognized as the right man for the office of sheriff, his name was placed on the ticket and he made a successful race. As sheriff of Cerro Gordo county, so faithful and efficiently did he serve that he was twice re-elected to succeed himself, and filled the office three terms. He died in Mason City in March, 1907, at the age of sixty-five years. Mr. Marsh's mother, Charlotte (Trevett) Marsh, was born in Manchester, England, from whence when eleven years of age she was brought by her parents to this country, their settlement being in Wisconsin. That was late in the '40s. In the early '50s the family moved to Iowa and took up their residence in the eastern part of Cerro Gordo county. Here she met and subsequently married Henry A. Marsh, who likewise had come to Cerro Gordo county in the '50s. The grandparents, both paternal and maternal, were farmers.

Fred E. Marsh is one of a family of three children, the other two being Mrs. C. A. Cure of St. Paul, Minnesota, and E. W. Marsh, of Austin, Minnesota, engaged in a brick and tile business. The widowed mother, now sixty-eight years of age, resides with her daughter in St. Paul.

In his early manhood Fred E. Marsh engaged in the ice business, which he conducted for a period of twenty-nine years, until December, 1909, when he sold out. Also at times he was interested in the stock and butcher business. His handsome home at 634 East Ninth street, Mason City, he built some years ago.

In 1886, he married Miss Ada Burkett, who was born in Germany and came to the United States with her parents when one year old. She was reared at Eldora, Iowa, where her parents had settled on coming to the United States. Mr. and Mrs. Marsh have two children, Vern L. and Harold.

Mr. Marsh was reared a Baptist, and he and his family are identified with the Baptist church. Politically he is a Republican and fraternally, an I. O. O. F. and a M. W. A., of the latter being a charter member at Mason City, as was also his father.

S. N. BERTELSEN.

S. N. Bertelsen has the distinction of having been one of the first five Danish settlers in this part of the state. He is a progressive agriculturist and stock raiser and has made his way by his own unaided efforts, his father having died when he was only five years old, which necessitated his being put out to work at the early age of eight years. Mr. Bertelsen was born in Denmark, Schleswig province, November 7, 1854, his parents being Nicoli and Cecelia (Christiansen) Bertelsen, both of whom lived out their lives in their native country. The father was a laboring man and served in the war of 1812. His death left the mother with a young family of four children. Christopher lives in Eugene, Oregon, and is in the dairy business, a fine herd of Jersey cattle being in his possession. The two sisters are married and live in Germany.

Mr. Bertelsen came to Cerro Gordo county in 1878 and located in the southern part, on one of the farms of John T. Richards. In the course of two years he went to Swaledale, where for five years he rented a farm and engaged in its operation. In 1885 he bought one hundred and sixty acres of his present homestead, later adding eighty acres to this tract. The land was then raw prairie and Mr. Bertelsen bought the original one hundred and sixty acres from Eastern parties for nine dollars and fifty cents per acre. He paid fifteen dollars per acre for the remainder. Although he had practically no capital to begin with he now owns and operates two hundred and forty acres of finely improved land in sections 30 and 31, in Pleasant Valley township.

Mr. Bertelsen was married December 1, 1884, to Miss Matilda Raun, who was born in Denmark and came to America in 1882. Their union has been blessed by the birth of nine children, eight of whom are living. They are: Mary, wife of Christ Utzen, residing in Grimes township; Lena, a dressmaker by profession; Christine; Cecelia; Hans; Bolitda; Edward, and Nicholas. All but Cecelia are at home. The second child, a daughter died of diphtheria in infancy. Mr. Bertelsen gives his support to the Republican party and he and his family are members of the Lutheran church. He has made his home in the land of the stars and stripes since 1872, and spent his first six years in Jackson county, Iowa, working on farms. It was at that time that he learned to speak German and English. He received a good common school education in his native land.

CORNELIUS E. SOMERS.

Among the able representatives of the great basic industry of agriculture in Cerro Gordo county is numbered Mr. Somers, who is the owner of a finely improved farm of three hundred and twenty acres in Owen township, but who is now living virtually retired in Mason City, where he has an attractive and modern residence at 747 East State street. He has been a resident of this county for nearly thirty years, has contributed his quota to industrial and civic progress and has gained and retained the confidence and esteem of the community, as is evidenced by the fact that he is now serving as a valued member of the board of county supervisors. Mr. Somers came to Cerro Gordo county in 1881 and purchased a tract of land in Owen township, where he engaged in diversified agriculture and stock raising, to which he continued to give his attention until 1904, when he removed from his fine farm to Mason City, where he has since maintained his home. Through his own industry and progressive methods he was able to add to his landed holdings and to develop the well improved and productive farm of three hundred and twenty acres, to the general supervision of which he still gives attention. He has shown at all times a loyal interest in everything that has tended to promote the material and social welfare of his county and state and as a staunch Republican he has been active in the local councils of the party, to which his allegiance is of the most unequivocal type. He served in various local offices of public trust in Owen township, and since 1908 he has represented Mason City as a member of the board of supervisors. In this body his influence has been cast in support of progressive policies, though he has never failed to advocate due conservatism in the handling of the business and material affairs of the county.

Cornelius E. Somers was born in Ogle county, Illinois, on the 16th of January, 1862, and is a son of William and Harriet (Hamlin) Somers, who were sterling pioneers of that section of the state. There the father secured in the early days a tract of land for which he paid only two and one-half dollars an acre, land that is today worth fully one hundred per cent more than is represented in the figure designated. There has never been a transfer of the property, which is within seventy miles of the great western metropolis, Chicago, and it is still held intact by the heirs. On this fine old homestead the parents of Mr. Somers continued to reside until their death, secure in the high regard of all who knew them. The father died in May, 1887, at the venerable age of seventy-eight years, and

his cherished and devoted wife was summoned to eternal rest in 1905, when ninety years of age. Both were zealous and consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church and in politics the father gave his support to the cause of the Republican party. He was a successful farmer and was a citizen essentially loyal and progressive. Both he and his wife were natives of the province of Ontario, Canada, and were of staunch English lineage. Their marriage was solemnized in their native province and they became the parents of eight children, five sons and three daughters, seven of whom are living. The subject of this sketch is the youngest of the number and is the only representative of the family in Cerro Gordo county. All of the other children reside at Rockford, Illinois, with the exception of one brother, who remains on the old homestead farm secured by the honored father so many years ago.

Cornelius E. Sommers gained his initial experiences in connection with life's activities through his association with the work of the home farm, and he was afforded the advantages of the excellent public schools of the city of Rockford, Illinois, where he also completed a course in the Becker Business College. He was about twenty years of age at the time of coming to Iowa and his principal motive in taking up his residence in this state was because he could secure high grade land at a more reasonable figure than he could in his native state. He bent his energies to the operation and improvement of his farm, and there are unmistakable evidences of his good management in the appearance of the finely improved estate at the present time. His measure of success has been sufficiently large to justify him, while still in the very prime of life, to retire from the arduous labors of the firm and enjoy the gracious rewards of former years of earnest toil and endeavor.

In politics Mr. Somers is aligned as a stalwart supporter of the principles of the Republican party, as has already been noted in this context, and he is affiliated with Sirius Lodge, No. 323, Free and Accepted Masons; and Benevolence Chapter No. 106, Royal Arch Masons, besides which he holds membership in the local organization of the Modern Brotherhood of America.

In the city of Rockford, Illinois, on the 18th of April, 1883, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Somers to Miss Jennie Borden, who was born and reared in that state and whose father, Isaac Borden, was one of the pioneer hotel men of Rockford. He is now living at Ft. Pierre, South Dakota, retired from active business, and is seventy-six years of age. His wife died a number of years ago, aged sixty. Mr. and Mrs. Somers have two daughters,

Harriet Ethel, who was born in Lindenwood, Illinois, and who is now the wife of Claude Weed, of Mason City; and Eva Jane, who remains at the parental home. She completed her education in Memorial University in Mason City, and is a specially accomplished musician. The family is one that enjoys utmost popularity in connection with the social life of the community and the attractive home is one in which a most gracious hospitality is extended to the wide circle of valued and appreciative friends.

JAMES S. RENSHAW.

James S. Renshaw, who operates his farm of ninety-five acres in section 31, Portland township, Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, has been a resident of the county since 1881. He located first in Dougherty township, where he remained one year, spent two years in Bath township, four years in Owen township, another year in Bath township, then located on his present farm, where he has made all improvements. He carries on general farming with excellent success and handles considerable stock.

Mr. Renshaw was born in what is now West Virginia, in Monongalia county, May 21, 1835, son of G. S. and Martha (Evans) Renshaw, both natives of the Old Dominion, he a son of James Renshaw, who was born and reared at Harper's Ferry, where he engaged in farming. G. S. Renshaw was also a farmer, and was, too a merchant and engaged in handling cattle. He moved with his family to Fayette county, Pennsylvania, in 1840, and in the spring of 1852 located in Clayton county, Iowa, where he died about 1870, at the age of sixty-four years. His widow died about 1876, over sixty years of age. She was a devout Methodist. James S. was the third of nine children, and has three sisters and two brothers now living.

James S. Renshaw lived until he was seventeen years old at Brownsville, Pennsylvania—the home of James G. Blaine. He had but limited educational advantages and was reared to farming and stock raising, which he has followed most of his life. He came with the rest of the family by boat on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers to Iowa in 1852. Later he engaged in farming in Clayton county on his own account and also engaged in mercantile business at National and later at Luana, Iowa, conducting a store fifteen years altogether. He then sold out his mercantile interests and moved to Cerro Gordo county, where he has since carried on farming.

Mr. Renshaw married, in Clayton county, Iowa, Miss Eu-

phemia D. Clark, who was born in Alburg, Vermont, in July, 1840, a daughter of Jedediah P. L. and Lura Clark, both of old New England families. She came with her parents to Iowa in 1853. Her father was a farmer and blacksmith and both he and his wife died in Clayton county. Eight children were born to Mr. Renshaw and his wife, namely: Minnie A., wife of A. W. Blanchard, of Minneapolis; O. W., also of Minneapolis, chief dispatcher on the Hastings & Dakota division of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad; George S., a farmer of Owen township; E. S., of Minneapolis, where he is a merchant; Jessie Adeline, wife of Marcellus A. Ball, of Minneapolis; Marvin J., of Minneapolis, where he is secretary of a business firm; Frank, who has a claim in Dakota, is in the employ of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Company; Hattie M., a stenographer of Minneapolis.

Politically Mr. Renshaw is a Republican and he has held township offices. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity and he and his wife are members of the Congregational church at Owen's Grove. Both are well known in the community and they have a host of friends. Mr. Renshaw is an enterprising, ambitious farmer, and has won success through his own efforts.

CLARENCE H. SMITH.

On other pages of this work is entered a brief record concerning the representative law firm of Blythe, Markley, Rule & Smith of which the youngest member is he whose name initiates this paragraph. Mr. Smith is recognized as one of the representative younger members of the bar of his native county and has been engaged in the practice of his profession in Mason City since 1905. His success has been on a parity with his technical ability and his devotion to the work of his chosen profession, the while he is held in high esteem in the county that has represented his home since the time of his nativity.

Mr. Smith was born at Mason City, this county, on the 13th of April, 1878, and is a son of Jerome and Jennie (Knox) Smith, the former of whom died in this city in 1904 at the age of sixty-nine years and the latter of whom still maintains her home here. The parents came from Massachusetts to Iowa and took up their residence in Mason City in 1870. The father became one of the leading and successful contractors and builders of this city and was a skilled artisan at the carpenter trade so that he was well equipped for the vocation to which he long devoted his attention. He was born at Pittsfield, Massachusetts, and was a member of a

family that was founded in that historical commonwealth in the Colonial days. He served with marked fidelity and gallantry as a soldier in the Massachusetts regiment in the Civil war, and was a staunch supporter of the cause of the Republican party. His widow, who was reared at Pittsfield, Massachusetts is a member of the First Congregational church of this city. She is now sixty-five years of age (1910). Of the three children the subject of this sketch is the youngest; Jessie the eldest is the wife of John H. Sheriffs of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Lucille B., is at home with her brother and widowed mother. Clarence H. Smith is indebted to the public schools of Mason City for his educational discipline, which was supplemented by a course of one year at a Business College. Shortly after leaving this school Mr. Smith assumed the position of clerk and stenographer in the office of the law firm of which he is now a valued member and he finally began reading law under effective preceptorship, with the result that when he appeared for examination before the state board of bar examiners in the city of Des Moines in 1905, he was successful and was admitted to practice by the supreme court of Iowa. He was forthwith admitted to the firm of which he is now a member and he has since given close attention to the work of his chosen profession in which his success has been of an unequivocal order. He is a stockholder and director in the Commercial Savings Bank, also in the Mason City Building and Loan Association. He is a Republican in his political proclivities, is a member of the Congregational church and is affiliated with the local lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Mr. Smith is a bachelor and resides with his mother and sister in their pleasant home in Mason City.

JOHN C. ROBINSON.

The present incumbent of the office of county attorney of Cerro Gordo county is recognized as one of the representative members of the bar of this section of the state and in his present office he has added materially to his prestige as an able trial lawyer and as a citizen of the utmost loyalty and public spirit. He has maintained his residence in Mason City since January, 1902, and was elected to the office of county attorney in 1908, assuming the duties of the office in January of the following year.

John C. Robinson was born in McDonough county, Illinois, on the 24th of December, 1874, and thus came a welcome Christmas guest in the home of his parents, Benjamin E. and Sarah (Schnatterly) Robinson, who took up their residence in that county in the

pioneer days and who still maintain their home there. The father gave the major part of his active career to farming and is now living virtually retired, enjoying the rewards of former years of earnest toil and endeavor. He is Republican in his political proclivities and a member of the Presbyterian church. His wife is a member of the Baptist church. They became the parents of three sons and one daughter, of whom the subject of this sketch was the third in order of birth. Robert D. is engaged in the practice of law at Galesburg, Illinois; Michael E. is likewise a lawyer by profession but is now engaged in the banking business at Hartford, Iowa; and Miss Blanche, who remains at the parental home, has been successful and popular as a teacher in the public schools.

John C. Robinson learned the lessons of practical industry in connection with the work of the home farm and his preliminary educational discipline was that afforded in the public schools of his native county. Later he was for one year a student at Hedding College, at Abingdon, Illinois, and for a similar period he continued his studies in the Bushnell Normal School at Bushnell, Illinois, a well-ordered private institution. Since that time he has made his own way in the world and his success stands not only in evidence of his sterling personal characteristics but also of his energy and well directed endeavors. He was employed as a teacher in the public school of McDonough, Illinois, for a period of one year and for a time he also conducted independent farming operations. Through his own endeavors he secured the funds which enabled him to continue his educational work. After deciding to prepare himself for the legal profession Mr. Robinson began reading in the office and under the able preceptorship of his brother, Robert D., at Galesburg, Illinois, where he devoted himself assiduously to his technical reading for one and one-half years. He then entered the law department of Drake University, at Des Moines, Iowa, where he completed the entire course in one year and was graduated as a member of the class of 1901, with the degree of Bachelor of Laws. In the meantime he paid his expenses largely by work incidentally handled while he was a student in the University. He was admitted to the bar of Iowa at the time of his graduation, and, as already stated, he came to Mason City in January, 1902. He gave himself with all of zeal and devotion to the work of his profession and soon gained recognition as an effective and versatile advocate and well-fortified counselor, so that there came to him a clientage of representative order. For a time he was associated in practice with S. A. Koch and later he had as his professional coadjutor the Honorable Fred A. Kirschman. In 1904 he was

elected to the office of city attorney, of which he continued incumbent until November, 1908, when he resigned to become a candidate for county attorney, to which he was elected by a gratifying majority and in which he is giving a most able and effective administration, besides which he continues in the active practice of his profession, in which he directs a substantial and important business. Mr. Robinson gives a staunch support to the principles and policies for which the Republican party stands sponsor and he has given effective service in behalf of the party cause. He is aggressive and liberal in his civic attitude and his genial personality has made him uniformly popular in the city and county in which he has elected to establish his home.

In a retrospective way it may be stated that Mr. Robinson's lineage on the paternal side is traced back to staunch Scotch-Irish origin. His grandparents emigrated from the north of Ireland to America and settled in the state of Pennsylvania, where his grandfather was for many years the stage-driver and mail carrier. Benjamin E. Robinson, father of the subject of this review, was born in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, and as a young man he there enlisted as a member of a regiment recruited for services in the Civil war, in which he served in the command of General Sheridan as well as under the other notable leaders of the great, interneecine conflict. He participated in sixty-seven engagements, including a number of the more important battles marking the progress of the war, and though he had many narrow escapes he was never seriously wounded. His wife likewise was born in Pennsylvania and is of staunch German lineage. John C. Robinson is a member of the Sons of Veterans and is also affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Modern Brotherhood of America, in the latter of which he has been especially active and influential, having served as secretary of the organization in Mason City for several years and having been a delegate therefrom to the state conventions of the order. He is not formally identified with any religious organizations but his wife is a member of the Baptist church.

At Mason City, on the 8th of August, 1907, Mr. Robinson was united in marriage to Miss Matilda E. Stock, who was born and reared in this city and who is a daughter of Louis and Loize (Schmidt) Stock, both of whom were born in Germany and both of whom died in Mason City, where they took up their residence many years ago.



James P. McLevie

JAMES P. McGUIRE.

Among the able and popular officials of Cerro Gordo county none holds a position of greater worth and importance and follows the same with more devotion and ability than does Mr. McGuire, who is the able and popular superintendent of the county hospital and the county farm. It is a matter that may be viewed with pride by the people of this county that they have made such effective provisions for their indigent and unfortunate wards, and the institution over which the subject of this review presides is one that may well be taken as a model, both in equipment and in service afforded. The hospital building is two stories in height, with basement, and is of substantial brick construction. It was built in January, 1897, and is fifty-eight feet in lateral dimensions. The county home building proper was built many years ago and has proved adequate to meet the demands placed upon it at the present time. Mr. McGuire has been superintendent of the institution since 1903 and has been identified with its affairs for the past twelve years. At the present time the hospital has seventeen inmates and the average number of inmates in the ward is fifteen. The farm in connection with the home comprises two hundred and three acres and in addition to this, three hundred and twenty acres located about one-half mile north are also utilized and are conducted under the general supervision of Mr. McGuire. The institution is practically self-supporting and this can be claimed for only two or three other institutions of the same kind in the state. Through his effective management Mr. McGuire has gained the confidence and esteem of the county and the good will of the inmates of the home, as he treats them with all of sympathy and kindness.

James P. McGuire was born in Buchanan county, Iowa, near the village of Jesup, on the 29th of March, 1874, and is a son of James L. and Helen (Ferguson) McGuire, who took up their residence in this state about the year 1869. The father was long numbered among the successful farmers and honored citizens of Buchanan county, where he continued to reside until his death and the widow now maintains her home in the village of Jesup. The subject of this review was reared under the invigorating training of the home farm and his early educational discipline included a course in the high school at Jesup, as well as in the Catholic school at Independence, this state. He was but nine years of age at the time of the death of his father and he has been dependent upon his own resources from his boyhood days, having

personally provided for the expense of his education. In 1890 Mr. McGuire became an employe of the Iowa State Hospital for the Insane at Independence, Iowa, and a few years later gained distinctive mark of the appreciation of his services in that he was placed in charge of the epileptic ward of the institution, in which department he had supervision for many years. At the outbreak of the Spanish-American war he tendered his services as a soldier and enlisted as a member of Company E, Forty-ninth Iowa Volunteer Infantry. He was with his command at Havana, Cuba, for four months and prior to this had been in the reserve camps in Florida and Georgia. He was a non-commissioned officer at the time of receiving his honorable discharge and a few months later, in September, 1898, he became an employe of the institution of which he is now superintendent and with the affairs of which he has been identified since that time. Mr. McGuire is a stanch adherent of the Republican party and he is affiliated with the Mason City organizations of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Knights of Pythias, the Knights of Columbus and the Modern Brotherhood of America. Both he and his wife are communicants of St. Joseph's Catholic church in Mason City.

In the year 1892 Mr. McGuire was united in marriage to Miss Edith Gilmore, who was born and reared in Guthrie county, this state, and who was formerly a successful and popular teacher in the public schools. Mr. and Mrs. McGuire have no children.

WILLIAM NETTLETON.

There are many points of interest in the career of this sterling citizen and honored pioneer of Iowa, whither he came soon after the close of the Civil war, in which he had rendered gallant service as a loyal soldier of the Union, and here continued to be identified with agricultural pursuits for many years. He has been a resident of Cerro Gordo county for the past twenty-eight years and in addition to his connection with farming he has also conducted extensive operations in the handling of real estate and the extending of financial loans in this connection. He has maintained his home in Mason City since 1892, and since that time has given practically his entire attention to his real estate and loan business, in which he is associated with David Smith, a resident of Lee county, Illinois. His operations in the buying and selling of farm property in Iowa have been of an extensive and important order and through the same the industrial and civic development of the state has been fostered in a significant way. He is the owner of a finely improved

farm of three hundred and eighty acres in Geneseo township and is one of the substantial business men and highly honored citizens of Cerro Gordo county.

Back to the stanchest of Scottish stock does William Nettleton trace his ancestral line, though he is himself a native of the fair Emerald Isle. He was born in county Antrim, Ireland, on the 8th of November, 1836, and is a son of Benjamin and Maria (English) Nettleton, both of whom were born and reared in Scotland, where their marriage was solemnized, whence they finally removed to county Antrim, Ireland. Benjamin Nettleton was a man of strong intellectuality and of excellent attainments as an architect. He followed his profession in Scotland and Ireland and in the latter country he had the supervision of the erection of one of the fine castles that lend attractiveness to the Emerald Isle. He emigrated with his family to America in 1840 and numbered himself among the pioneers of Lee county, Illinois, which was at that time very sparsely settled. He secured a large tract of land from the government, for which he paid one dollar and a quarter per acre. The well-known Smith family of Paw Paw, Lee county, came to America a short time before the Nettletons and the two families have been closely associated from that time to the present. Benjamin Nettleton died in 1851, at fifty years of age, and his devoted and noble wife lived to attain the venerable age of seventy-six years. Both were strict members of the Scotch Presbyterian church and they reared their children according to the tenets of their somewhat rigorous Christian faith. They became the parents of six sons and three daughters, and of that number only one other than the subject of this sketch is now living, Daniel M. Nettleton, who is a prominent farmer and an influential citizen of Clay county, Nebraska, and he represented that county in the state legislature and in which he had the distinction of serving as speaker of the house. Three of the brothers served in the Civil war; two of them having been members of the Fifteenth Illinois Infantry and the other a member of the Fourth Illinois Cavalry.

William Nettleton, the immediate subject of this sketch, was a child of about four years of age at the time of the family emigration to America and he was reared to maturity upon the pioneer farm in Lee county, Illinois, where his early educational advantages were those afforded in the common schools of the period. There he continued to be actively associated with agricultural pursuits until the dark cloud of the Civil war cast its pall over the National horizon, when he gave evidence of his intrinsic loyalty and

patriotism by tendering his services in defense of the nation. On the 8th of August, 1862, he enlisted as a member of Company K, Seventy-fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, which command was assigned to the Army of the Cumberland. Mr. Nettleton proved himself a faithful and valiant soldier and the record of his services is practically that of the regiment of which he was a member. He participated in many of the important battles marking the progress of the great conflict between the north and the south, including those of Perryville, Stone River, Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, the campaign of one hundred and twenty days from Chattanooga to Atlanta and the sanguinary engagements at Franklin and Nashville, Tennessee. In the battle of Pine Mountain, Georgia, June 16, 1862, he was severely wounded, but did not leave his command and was in the regimental hospital ten days. He continued in active service until the close of the war, having received his honorable discharge on the 12th of August, 1865, at Nashville, Tennessee. He was promoted from the ranks to the office of corporal and later became sergeant. For gallant and meritorious service he was given the brevet rank of lieutenant and he was mustered out as such. He has ever retained a lively interest in his old comrades of the dark days of the Civil war and indicates the same by his membership in the C. H. Huntley Post of the Grand Army of the Republic, and is a past post commander.

In the autumn of 1866 Mr. Nettleton came to Iowa and took up his residence in Franklin county, where he purchased a farm and where he remained until 1869, when he removed to Cherokee county, this state, where he likewise purchased land and where he was also engaged in the meat market business at the time of the building of the railroad through that section. It was at this time that he initiated his operations in the handling of real estate and he has since continued to be actively engaged in this line of enterprise, in which from the start he has been associated with David Smith, who has been a resident of Lee county, Illinois, from his childhood days. Mr. Nettleton maintained his home in Cherokee county for fourteen years, at the expiration of which he removed to Cerro Gordo county and purchased a tract of land in Geneseo township. This property he has continuously held and his landed estate now aggregates three hundred and eighty acres. He developed his farm into one of the well-improved and valuable places of the county and there continued to be actively engaged in diversified agriculture and raising of high grade stock until the fall of 1891, when he leased his farm and removed to Mason City, where he has since maintained his home.

Mr. Nettleton has ever stood the exponent of the highest civic loyalty and progressiveness and his political allegiance has been given without reservation to the Republican party. His first presidential vote was cast in support of Abraham Lincoln and he has kept in close touch with the questions and issues of the hour, so that in polities, as in other matters, he is strongly fortified in his opinions and is able to give a "reason for the faith that is in him." He was a member of the board of supervisors of Cherokee county, but since coming to Cerro Gordo county he has invariably refused to accept candidacy for public office. Among other positions for which he was urged to become a nominee was that of mayor of Mason City. He has been affiliated with the time-honored Masonic fraternity for many years, having been initiated as an entered apprentice in Friendship Lodge at Dixon, Illinois, prior to his enlistment as a soldier in the Civil war and having been duly raised to the master's degree in this lodge. He is past master of Pearl Lodge, No. 246, Free and Accepted Masons, of Sheffield, Franklin county, Iowa; and his present Masonic affiliations in Mason City are as here noted: Benevolence Lodge, No. 145, Free and Accepted Masons, Benevolence Chapter, No. 46, Royal Arch Masons, of which he is now high priest, and Antioch Commandery, No. 43, Knights Templars, of which he is past eminent commander, besides which he holds membership in Za. Ga. Zag Temple, Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine at Des Moines, Iowa. He is past chancellor commander of Cerro Gordo Lodge No. 70, Knights of Pythias, and has been identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at Cherokee, Iowa. His wife is identified with the adjunct Masonic organization, the Order of the Eastern Star, and is also a zealous member of the Methodist Episcopal church in Mason City.

At Dixon, Illinois, on the 3d of December, 1857, Mr. Nettleton was united in marriage to Miss Maria Miller, who was born in Crawford county, Pennsylvania, and whose father, Charles Miller, was numbered among the pioneer farmers of Lee county, Illinois, where he and his wife continued to reside until their deaths. Mrs. Nettleton was reared to maturity in Lee county and on the 21st of June, 1910, she celebrated her seventieth birthday. Mr. and Mrs. Nettleton have journeyed down the pathway of life together, satisfied and comforted by mutual love and devotion for a period of fifty-two years, and their golden wedding anniversary was duly observed in 1907. Concerning their three children the following brief record is entered in conclusion of this sketch: Charles, who is a resident of Portland, Oregon, and a bridge-builder by vocation,

married Miss Mary Hoffman and they have five children: William, Mary, Ray, Hope and John; Ernest E. died at Los Angeles, California, in February, 1902, and is survived by one son, Richard, whose mother died some time prior to the death of his father, and he is being reared in the home of his grandparents; Guy E., youngest of the children of Mr. and Mrs. Nettleton, is a resident of Mason City and is identified with railroad interests. He was united in marriage to Miss Carrie Christianson and they reside with the William Nettleton family in Mason City.

DUNCAN MILLOY.

Duncan Milloy, a prominent agriculturist and stock raiser, may be numbered among those, who, by the employment of the most modern and enlightened methods known in their honorable vocation, assist in giving prestige to Owen township. He owns two hundred valuable acres in the township and operates this farm in association with his brother, Alexander Milloy, both of them residing with their mother on the home place, which is located in section 13. Mr. Milloy's parents were Daniel and Grace (Siveler) Milloy, the former's birthplace having been in Canada, near Toronto, and his parentage Scotch. He was reared and educated in Canada and there married, his wife being also a Canadian, whose parents were natives of Scotland. He brought his family to Cerro Gordo county in 1881 and for some years operated the Bird farm, later purchasing the present homestead. He was a successful farmer, always interested in new scientific discoveries in his line and making many improvements upon his estate, in which he took proper pride. A Republican in conviction he had much party loyalty and held several local offices. A great reader and student he not only took deep interest but was well informed upon the subjects of the day. Previous to his career as a farmer he had had some railroad experience, serving as section foreman on the Chicago Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad. He was a self-made man, having had nothing to start with. Mr. Milloy, the father, died in March, 1901, at the age of sixty-three years. His widow and four children survive him, the latter being: Archie, of Rockford, who is in the livery business; Alexander, a farmer of Owen township; Katie, now Mrs. Charles Elliott, residing in Owen township, and Mr. Milloy.

Duncan Milloy has been a resident of Cerro Gordo county since the age of nine years. He attended the district schools and obtained his agricultural knowledge under the excellent tutelage of

his father. He is Republican in political conviction, and is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, being affiliated with the branch at Cartersville.

JUDGE ALBERT H. CUMMINGS.

The various public offices of which this well-known citizen of Cerro Gordo county has been incumbent indicate the sure quality of the confidence and esteem reposed in him in the community that has so long represented his home. He is now referee in bankruptcy for six counties in northern Iowa, Cerro Gordo, Wirth, Franklin, Butler, Hancock, and Winnebago. To this position he was appointed in 1898 and he has proved a most efficient and popular official. He is also engaged in the real estate business, with offices in the Adams building, in Mason City, where he has maintained his residence since 1871.

Albert H. Cummings was born in Newport, Orleans county, Vermont, on the 17th of February, 1849, and is a scion of one of the old and honored families of New England. The original American progenitors settled in Massachusetts in the early colonial epoch, being of English lineage, and from that historic, old commonwealth representatives of the name later made settlement in New Hampshire and Vermont. Lorenzo Cummings was born at Keene, New Hampshire, and in his youth he learned a trade but his principal vocation was that of farming. He died in Vermont at the venerable age of eighty-eight years, in the highest regard of all who knew him. He was a stanch Abolitionist in the days prior to the Civil war and he united with the Republican party at the time of its organization, while he was one of the first to espouse the cause of the Prohibition party, to which he gave his allegiance until the time of his death. Both he and his wife were devout and zealous members of the Baptist church and in which he was a deacon. In the state of Vermont was solemnized the marriage of Lorenzo Cummings to Miss Seraphina Sylvester, who was born at St. Johnsbury, Caledonia county, that state, and who likewise was a member of a family that was founded in New England, in the early Colonial days. Both paternal and maternal grandfathers of the subject of this review were found enrolled as valiant and patriotic soldiers in the Continental line in the war of the Revolution. The genealogy of the Sylvester family is traced back to stanch Scottish origin and the greater number of its representatives in America have been identified with the great basic art of agriculture. Lorenzo and Seraphina (Sylvester) Cummings became

the parents of three sons and three daughters and of the number one of the sons and one of the daughters are deceased. Ellen became the wife of James M. Becker and they came to Mason City, Iowa, in 1870. Mr. Becker became one of the influential pioneers of Cerro Gordo county and here he continued to reside until his death. His widow still maintains her home in Mason City. Lucy L. is now the wife of J. G. Griffith and resides at Mount Carroll, Illinois; and T. S. Cummings still maintains his home at Newport, Vermont.

The honored subject of this review was reared to maturity in the old Green Mountain State, to whose common schools he is indebted for his preliminary education, which was supplemented by attendance in the schools of New Hampshire. In the latter state he began reading law and later he continued his technical studies at Mason City, Iowa, where he took up his residence in 1871, as already noted. In the autumn of that year he was admitted to the bar and he continued in the active practice of his profession in Mason City until 1902, when he sold his practice and turned his attention to the real-estate business, in which he has since been engaged. In politics he accords stanch and intelligent support to the Republican party and he has been called upon to serve in various public offices of importance and responsibility. He was made mayor of Mason City in 1893 for four years, served six years as city solicitor, was incumbent of the office of justice of the peace for twenty-three years and for twelve years he was a valued member of the board of education. He was appointed to his present important office in 1898, as already stated, and it is interesting to record that he has been incumbent of some public office since 1879. He has long been known as a representative member of the bar of his county and his success in his profession was of an unequivocal order. Mr. Cummings has been affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows since 1871 and is a charter member of the lodge of Knights of Pythias in Mason City, where he also holds membership in the lodge of Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. His wife is a consistent member of the Baptist church and is active in various departments of its work.

On the 19th of April, 1873, at Newport, Vermont, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Cummings to Miss Idella C. Blake, who was born and reared in that state, where the family was founded in the pioneer days. Mr. and Mrs. Cummings have two children, Juna, who is the wife of Dr. Charles B. Lewis, a representative physician and dentist of Ottumwa, Iowa, and Albert B., who is a resident of Chicago.

E. P. CARPENTER.

A man well and favorably known in the community in which he resides, is E. P. Carpenter, who owns and operates a finely improved farm of two hundred and forty acres in section 36, Clear Lake township. He came to Cerro Gordo county in 1888 and located upon his present place. He was born in Scott county, Iowa, in 1860, his parents being O. P. and Mary E. (Hart) Carpenter. The father was a native of New York state, but early in life came to Iowa, and from that state enlisted in the Twentieth Iowa Regiment at the time of the Civil war. He died in a hospital in the south and was buried in the government cemetery. The mother was born in Ohio and came to Iowa with her parents in 1845. She is now a resident of Clear Lake, and is seventy-three years of age. Mr. Carpenter is one of four children, all natives of Iowa, namely: Daniel, who died at twelve years of age; S. L., residing in this county; E. P., our subject; and Leroy, who died in infancy.

Mr. Scott was reared and educated in Scott county, Iowa, supplementing his common-school education with a course in the normal school at Valparaiso, Indiana. He engaged for some years in the general mercantile business at Camanche, Iowa, but abandoned that to take up agriculture. His experiences in this line in Cerro Gordo county have been entirely gratifying and he does not regret his change of vocation. He subscribes to the policies and principles of the Republican party and takes an interest in public affairs, without at the same time caring for office. He has membership in the Modern Woodmen of America and Mrs. Carpenter belongs to the Royal Neighbors. Both are members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Clear Lake.

Mr. Carpenter was married in 1885, in Clinton county, Iowa, to Miss Minnie Elce. Her father was a resident of Clinton county in the early days and saw service in the Civil war. Mr. and Mrs. Carpenter have a family of three children, these being: Verna M., attending Cornell College, Iowa; Charles P., a student at Ames Agricultural College; and Ethel E.

DAVID J. PURDY.

David J. Purdy, deceased, was born in Canada July 7, 1836, and died at Mason City, Iowa, June 3, 1899. He was one of a family of eleven children, and his parents, John and Margaret (Fritz) Purdy, were born, passed their lives and died in Canada. By occupation John Purdy was a farmer, and on the home farm

David J. was reared, receiving his education in the common schools and finishing with one year at Cobourg College. In 1862 he went to British Columbia, where a younger brother was located, and he was in the mines a short time and then in the millwright business and remained three years. At the end of that time he returned home, married, and engaged in business for himself at Trenton, Canada. On July 5, 1869, he landed in Mason City, Iowa, and established himself in the grocery business. Failing health caused him to sell out in 1875 and make a change. He went to Spencer, Iowa, and for a year he conducted a banking business and clothing store there. At the end of the year, however, he came back to Mason City, repurchased his old store, and remained in business here until 1896, when he sold out and retired. He owned ten acres of valuable land on North Main street, Mason City, on which he intended to build homes and sell, but his death occurred before he had time to carry out his plans. During his mercantile experience he had several partners at different times, but he was always the main stay of the business. In his later years he was a strong Prohibitionist, and all his life he was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

On October 25, 1865, David J. Purdy and Ada G. Greenleaf were united in marriage, and the fruits of their union were four children, only one of whom, George H., is now living, he being a resident of Mason City.

Mrs. Purdy was born in Oswego, New York, May 24, 1842, daughter of James and Caroline (Marsh) Greenleaf. James Greenleaf was a native of Vermont and by trade was a millwright. He came to Iowa in 1857, built mills in different parts of the state, and traveled over the state as state agent for the Fairbanks scales. Also he had farming interests, to which he devoted his time and attention in later life. He left Iowa in 1902 and went to Washington, where he was accidentally killed by a train in the following year, at the age of eighty-five years. His wife died in early life, when about thirty, leaving two children: Mrs. Purdy, and a sister Mary, who died at twenty-two years of age. Mrs. Purdy spent two years attending school in Chicago, and for two years previous to her marriage she taught school in Canada. In Mason City, for six years she kept her husband's books in the store, and since his death has handled his estate in such a manner as to prove herself a successful business woman. She is identified with the church of which her husband was a worthy member.

WILLIAM McADAM.

William McAdam, an ambitious and successful farmer of Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, owns eighty acres of fertile land on section 27, Falls township, which he has brought to a high state of cultivation. He has always been engaged in farming since he left school and carries on his work in an able manner, being guided by scientific principles and modern methods. He grew up on the farm where he now lives and purchased it from his father, who bought it when it was wild land and lived on it until his death, developing and improving it.

Mr. McAdam was born in Ogle county, Illinois, a son of James and Maria (Fox) McAdam, the father born in Delaware county, New York, October 18, 1831, and the mother born at Beaverkill, Sullivan county, New York. They were parents of six children, of whom those living are: Elizabeth, William and George. James McAdam was a carpenter by trade, at which he began working at the age of fourteen years with his father. He became a master builder and millwright. He was married in 1853 and the following year moved to Polo, Illinois, where he followed his trade until 1867, when he located in Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, and purchased land.

William McAdam is a representative and useful citizen, actively interested in the public welfare, and in politics is independent. He supports every cause he deems worthy of his attention and is honest and upright in his dealings with his fellows. Mr. McAdam is unmarried and his sister Elizabeth lives with him and keeps house for him. His brother lives at Nora Springs. The family as a whole stands high in the estimation of the community, where they have established a reputation for high character and integrity.

ROBERT S. YOUNG.

To Robert S. Young, three times mayor of the town, a former agriculturist, and now engaged in the real estate and insurance business, is due remarkable credit for making Clear Lake better and more progressive. It would be safe to say that no one has done a greater work in civic improvement or has encouraged the growth and prosperity of the town in such material fashion. The story of Mr. Young's career is interesting and he finds much enjoyment in telling of the struggles of the days before he found that niche in the world for which nature had intended him. Mr. Young was born at Lena, Stephenson county, Illinois, May 31, 1859. His

parents were Robert C. and Carrie D. (Vincent) Young. The father was born in Belfast, Ireland, and came to the United States as a young man. He located in Lena, Illinois, married in April, 1858, and pursued the vocation of farming. October 9, 1875, is the date upon which he decided to cast his fortunes with Cerro Gordo county. He purchased one hundred and thirty-eight acres of wild land on the south shore of Clear Lake, in Clear Lake township, section 28, paying thirteen hundred dollars for the same. This he thoroughly improved, even to trees, and farmed upon it until in 1892 he abandoned farming, sold his land, and came to Clear Lake where he took up auctioneering. He was well fitted for this kind of work and conducted some large stock sales. He was a very active man and worked to within ten days of his death, which occurred in November, 1905, his age being seventy-four years. The mother was a native of Courtland county, New York, and died in December, 1899, at the age of fifty-nine years. This good couple were the parents of eight children, six of whom are living, as follows: Mr. Young; James A., of Garner, Iowa; Charles W., of Omaha, Nebraska; Homer A., of Washington; Frank S., of Clear Lake; and Addie, wife of T. A. Stanfield, of Omaha, Nebraska.

Mr. Young spent his boyhood days in Shannon, Illinois, and upon his father's farm in Iowa, and received a common school education. He was sixteen years of age at the time of the removal of his parents to Cerro Gordo county. He remained at home until the time of his marriage in 1880, when he rented a farm in Clear Lake township and began its cultivation on his own account. Since early boyhood he had evinced a predilection for trading. One year he bought calves until he had thirty, whereupon he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land at six dollars and a quarter an acre and traded his calves in for one-third payment. He was at one time, to quote his own words, "the poorest man in Cerro Gordo county," having to live in a one-story 12 x 16 foot shanty, where he ate, cooked and slept. He also tells of another instance which did not tend to make him rejoice. He had a team of heavy horses, both of which had not been paid for. One morning he went out to the stable and found one of the horses dead, and Mr. Young admits that he wept. He had to have a team, and the only way he could find to acquire one was to trade his remaining heavy horse for two small ones. He built a house upon his place and announced his intention of raising one hundred hogs a year, but he only succeeded in raising twenty in two years. After several similar experiences he came to the sad conclusion that he had not been cut out for a farmer, so in 1893 he gave up farming and came to Clear Lake,

where he purchased the insurance business of S. G. Scott for one thousand dollars. While thus engaged he was asked at different times by people who knew him to negotiate the sale of farms, it being realized that he was well posted about the value of the land in the county. So in the most natural fashion in the world he came to take up real estate work and it has proved congenial. In the first fifteen months he traded and sold sixty farms.

Mr. Young has held numerous public offices, this evidencing the confidence in which his fellow townsmen hold him. He has been school officer and president of the school board in Clear Lake township, and for eight years was township trustee. While still living upon the farm he held the position of road superintendent, and he has been three times elected to the office of mayor. Mr. Young's enthusiasm for civic betterment has previously been mentioned. It was he who caused the old board walks around the city park to be torn up and replaced by cement, thus inaugurating a general movement, with the result that today Clear Lake has more cement walks than any other town of its size in Iowa.

In 1909 Mr. Young purchased sixty acres of land on the north shore of the lake for ten thousand dollars, platted the lake front into lots and in July of that year he conducted the largest sale of lots ever known in Cerro Gordo county, seventeen thousand dollars worth of them being sold. He is now engaged in platting into lots one hundred and thirty acres of land on East State street, Mason City, which he will sell some time within the present year (1910). He has built and sold numerous houses and summer cottages in Clear Lake and he completed in May, 1910, one of the largest and best amusement pavillions in the west, this being known as "Young's Ideo."

Mr. Young is active in fraternal matters, having membership in the Elks, the Eagles, the Modern Woodmen of America, and the Tribe of Ben Hur, all at Mason City, and the Knights of Pythias at Clear Lake. Politically he gives his support to the policies and principles of the Republican party.

On February 5, 1880, occurred the marriage of Mr. Young to Miss Alice L. Quick, born in Rock Creek, December 30, 1858. She is the daughter of James and Mary A. (Reed) Quick, English people who came to the United States in 1848. They located in New York, then removed to Ohio, and in 1870 came to Grundy county, Iowa. In 1872 they came on to Cerro Gordo county and took up their residence in Clear Lake township. The father died in 1899, aged seventy-six years, and the mother, in 1901, aged seventy-seven years. To Mr. and Mrs. Young have been born

seven children, three of whom are living. They are Claude S., at home; Reve V., the wife of Ray Andrew of Mason City; and Dorothy, at home.

ARTHUR L. RULE.

On other pages of this publication is entered a memoir to the late James Rule, who was long one of the most honored and influential citizens of Mason City and who was the father of him to whom this sketch is dedicated. As ready reference may be made to the memorial tribute mentioned, it will not be necessary to repeat the data in the present connection. As one of the representative members of the bar of his native county, Arthur L. Rule is well upholding the civic prestige of the honored name which he bears and is engaged in the practice of his profession in Mason City, where he is a member of the law firm of Blythe, Markley, Rule & Smith.

Mr. Rule was born in Mason City on the 4th of January, 1876, and after completing the curriculum of the public schools he continued his studies in Shattuck Military Academy, at Faribault, Minnesota, in which institution he was graduated as a member of the class of 1895. Thereafter he was employed for one year in the City National Bank of Mason City, of which institution his honored father was president, and thereafter he was for a time a student in the Northwestern University at Evanston, Illinois. After leaving this institution he passed six months in traveling in Arizona and California and soon after his return to his native city he tendered his services as a volunteer for the Spanish-American war. He became first lieutenant and adjutant of the Fifty-second Iowa Volunteer Infantry and proceeded with his command to Camp McKinley, where he served as camp quartermaster on the staff of General Lincoln. His command was not called into active service in Cuba and at the close of the war he received his honorable discharge. Later he was honored with the office of inspector general of the Iowa National Guard. In the autumn of 1898 Mr. Rule entered the law department of the University of Iowa, in which he was graduated as a member of the class of 1900 and from which he received the degree of Bachelor of Laws. He then went to the city of Cedar Rapids, where he became an attache in the office of Judge J. C. Cook, solicitor for Iowa for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad. In October, 1901, he accepted a position with Samuel K. Tracy, general solicitor of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern Railroad, with the law department, with which he continued to be identified until August, 1902, when he became a mem-

ber of the firm of Blythe, Markley, Rule & Smith of Mason City where he has since been engaged in the practice of his profession. In politics Mr. Rule is a Republican and in a fraternal way he is identified with the local organizations of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Knights of Pythias, Modern Woodmen of America and the Modern Brotherhood of America. He has served as exalted ruler of the Mason City lodge of Elks and as chancellor commander of the Knights of Pythias.

On the 5th of June, 1901, Mr. Rule was united in marriage to Miss Edith Brady, daughter of William P. Brady of Cedar Rapids, one of the leading officials and executives of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern Railroad, which is now part of the Rock Island system. Mr. and Mrs. Rule have one daughter, Edith, who was born on the 5th of March, 1902.

PAUL A. BRYANT.

One of the most extensive farmers of Lime Creek township, Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, is Paul A. Bryant, who owns two hundred and forty acres on sections 4 and 9. Mr. Bryant is a native of the township, born September 30, 1861, son of Ambrose and Mary (Dennis) Bryant. Ambrose Bryant was born in Chenango county, New York, October 2, 1833, and died on his farm January 3, 1910, and his wife died in February, 1904, at the age of sixty years. They were the parents of ten children, of whom three survive, namely: Paul A.; Jessie L., wife of Thomas Blain, of Minnesota; and Seth A., on the old homestead. Ambrose Bryant remained in his native state until 1855, being reared on a farm. He then came to Cerro Gordo county and pre-empted the southwest quarter of section 9, Lime Creek township. In the early days the only settlement in the neighborhood was along Lime Creek and for many years his house stood alone. His selection of a location was most excellent, as on his farm were never-failing springs of good water. He was an extensive and successful grain and stock farmer and at one time owned six hundred and forty acres of land, most of which he put under cultivation. He was energetic and active and until a few days before his death he worked on his place. He had made many friends and had a high standing in the community, furthering every good cause and doing his full share to promote the welfare and development of the community. His loss was genuinely mourned and his presence missed in many circles.

Paul A. Bryant was reared on his father's farm and received a common school education. He was married, in 1901, to Bertha

M. Boy, who was born December 5, 1878, in Wisconsin, and brought in infancy by her parents, Charles and Mary (Miller) Boy, to Lime Creek, in April, 1879. Mr. and Mrs. Boy were the parents of eight children, of whom three are living: Anna M., wife of M. J. Tietjens; Bertha M.; and Linda T., wife of H. D. Siewertsen, of Falls township. Mr. Boy died in 1907, at the age of seventy-two years, and his widow now resides in Colorado with her daughter, Mrs. Anna Tietjens, at the age of seventy years.

Four children have blessed the union of Mr. Bryant and his wife, namely: Marie A., Charles A., Herbert P. and Gladys M. Mr. Bryant has shown excellent judgment in carrying on his farm and has brought it to a high state of cultivation. Besides the farm where he lives he owns one hundred and sixty acres in Mower county, Minnesota. In politics he is a Republican, and he has served in school and local offices. He is a representative citizen, much interested in the welfare of the community, and is identified with the best interests of the same.

THOMAS CONNER.

Noteworthy among the well known and much respected citizens of Mason City is Thomas Conner, who is now serving ably and satisfactorily as chief of the Mason City Fire Department. A son of Timothy and Delia (O'Connel) Conner, he was born, May 11, 1862, in Trumbull county, Ohio, coming from Irish ancestry. Timothy Conner was born, reared and married in Ireland, from there coming with his wife to the United States in 1848. Locating in Trumbull county, Ohio, he was there engaged in tilling the soil until 1865, when he came to Iowa. Settling in Fayette county, he bought land and there continued as a general farmer during the remainder of his active career. He spent the declining years of his long and useful life in Oelwein, Iowa, passing away in 1908, aged ninety-one years. His wife preceded him to the better world, dying in March, 1892, aged fifty-six years. They reared eight children, of whom seven are living, as follows: Michael, of Rock Island, Illinois; Mary, wife of John Kennedy, of Boone, Iowa; Mrs. Catherine Sandford, of Oelwein; Thomas, of whom we write; Ellen, Sister Pacoma, of the Sisters of Charity in Chicago; Marie, wife of William Fettkether, of Oelwein; and Mrs. Delia Daly, of Oelwein. Timothy Conner was living in Trumbull county, Ohio, when the Civil war broke out. True to the interests of his adopted country he bravely offered his services in her defense, enlisting in 1862 in the Fourteenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and serving in McKinley's company until the close of the conflict.



Geo G Woodford

But three years old when his parents located in Fayette county, Thomas Conner acquired a substantial common school education, and was well drilled in the various branches of agriculture while young. Leaving home in 1881 he came direct to Mason City in search of employment. He subsequently taught school in Houston county, Minnesota, two years, after which he drove stage two and one half years between Waverly, Iowa, and West Union, Iowa. Returning then to Mason City, Mr. Conner was for a time engaged in the well drilling and wind mill business. In 1897 he became connected with the city fire department as a paid driver, and had the care of the horses and machinery until 1909, when he accepted his present position as chief of the department.

Mr. Conner married, September 19, 1886, Orissa M. Waite, who was born in Floyd county, Iowa, October 15, 1869, and they have one child, Kathryn. Mr. Conner is a Democrat in politics and a member of the Masonic order.

GEORGE G. WOODFORD.

In the annals of that prosperous and enlightened portion of Iowa, Cerro Gordo county, the name Woodford has long been prominent and is one to which honor and admiration have ever attached themselves, and the beneficent influence of one of the most able members of this representative family, Mr. George G. Woodford, is still felt after the lapse of a score of years, his demise having occurred at his home in Clear Lake on the 2nd day of March, 1890. A loyal and public spirited citizen who placed the good of the whole community above individual preferment and personal gain, a business man of high executive ability and sound judgment who possessed the rare gift of succeeding without any compromise with the tenets of the stanchest integrity, one whose personal life bore the closest inspection, his ideals of the duties of the head of a household being of the highest character, his identification with Clear Lake in the eleven years in which he played an active part in its many sided life must generally be accounted an unmixed benefit.

George G. Woodford was a native of Tioga county, New York, his birth having occurred there October 19, 1834. The names of his parents were Romanta and Mary A. (Booth) Woodford, the birthplace of both having also been Tioga county, New York. These good people belonged to the agricultural class, the bone and sinew of the American nation, and it was amid the wholesome surroundings of a farm that the early years of Mr. Woodford were

spent, here gaining the foundation of that education which in after years he supplemented upon his own account. Early beginning upon a business career he took up the lumber trade, with which the name is also associated in Clear Lake, and at the same time dealt extensively in live stock. Here in his native county, on the 5th day of April, 1858, he laid the foundation of a happy and congenial home life by his marriage with Olive E. Wright, a daughter of Charles S. and Mary Wright. Mrs. Woodford was also a native of the Empire state, having first seen the light of day in Ontario county, in the same year as her husband, 1834. She was an estimable woman and an ideal helpmeet, and survived Mr. Woodford for a number of years, passing to the Great Beyond on December 15, 1904, at her home in Clear Lake, her age being seventy years. In New York their two children were born, Charles R. Woodford, whose life and achievements are chronicled in the succeeding biographical sketch, alone surviving.

In 1879 Mr. Woodford, who recognized the excellent opportunity presented by the states farther west, fixed his eyes on Iowa and in July of the year mentioned came on to look over the field. Naturally he received a favorable impression and as an additional attraction lay in the fact that he had an uncle living in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, who was interested in the lumber business at Clear Lake that he had established in 1869, Mr. Woodford concluded to take up his residence here, and accordingly his family followed in October. As previously suggested the name of Woodford was one already well known in Clear Lake. The substantial firm of Woodford, Wheeler & Johnson, dealers in lumber, had been established in 1869, the Woodford of the firm being an uncle, Truman Woodford, and in the succeeding ten years it had experienced a steady growth. It was one of the oldest concerns of the town, and, conditions at the time of its establishment being somewhat primitive, it was necessary to haul lumber from Mason City by teams. The good American pioneer recognizes nothing in the way of difficulty and in consequence the fortunes of the concern were at high tide. Transactions were conducted by the firm as named until the retirement of Mr. Johnson in 1873, when it became known as Woodford & Wheeler. Upon the association of George G. Woodford the name was again changed to Woodford, Wheeler & Company. The record of the years of Mr. Woodford's connection with the concern is indeed gratifying, and his loss from the purely industrial aspect was only softened by the fact that a son so much resembling him in ability and principle was ready to take his place. His demise was particularly to be regretted since at the time of its occurrence he

was at the fullness of his powers. He and his wife were faithful members of the Congregational church, whose good causes they furthered to the best of their ability and in the matter of polities his allegiance was given to the Democratic party. He was a member of the F. and A. M., and the K. of P. fraternities.

CHARLES R. WOODFORD.

Charles R. Woodford, president and treasurer of the Woodford-Wheeler Lumber Company of Clear Lake, Iowa, is a man whose citizenship is of high value to the community, standing as he does as captain of one of the industrial enterprises which conduce in largest measure to its prosperity, and associating himself with many progressive movements. To recount the various stages of the growth of the Woodford-Wheeler Lumber Company is to give the history of one of the most important concerns to be encountered in this part of Hawkeye state, as well as one of the longest established, it having been in active operation for over forty years, in that time furnishing employment and livelihood to many people, assisting in greatest measure in the development of this and the adjoining counties, and by the unimpeachable integrity of its management constituting in itself one of the institutions to which the state can point with pride.

To sketch briefly the history of the Woodford-Wheeler Lumber Company: In 1869 Truman Woodford, an uncle of Mr. Charles R. Woodford, and the Messrs. Wheeler and Johnson instituted the lumber business which was destined to such subsequent success, the firm name combining the names of the three gentlemen mentioned. The conditions of a country which not long before had been the frontier were met dauntlessly and conquered, and the business grew steadily, lumber being one of the commodities most indispensable in the settlement of the rich, new country. There was no change in the management of affairs until the year 1873, when Mr. Johnson retired and the firm became known as that of Woodford & Wheeler. In 1879 George G. Woodford of Candor, New York, nephew of Truman Woodford and father of him whose name initiates this sketch, moved to Clear Lake and became a member of the firm, which was thereupon known as Woodford, Wheeler & Company. Upon the death of George G. Woodford in 1890, W. C. Tompkins was admitted to partnership, and another change was made in the name of the industry, which was then known over Iowa as the company of Woodford, Wheeler & Tompkins. In 1905 Mr. Tompkins retired and in that year the present company was organ-

ized and incorporated for one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars. Its dealings are of the most extensive character, seven yards being operated and each one being a model in its management. These seven yards are situated in four different counties, Clear Lake, Thornton, and Ventura in Cerro Gordo county; Pomeroy in Calhoun; Garner and Britt in Hancock and Algona in Kossuth. Yards at Mason City and Fonda, Pocahontas county, were formerly the possession of the Woodford-Wheeler Company, these having been sold.

Charles R. Woodford is the worthy son of a worthy father and a splendid representative of the respected name of Woodford. He was born in Tioga county, New York, August 26, 1861, his parents being George G. and Olive E. (Wright) Woodford. He attended the common and high schools in his native place and was graduated from the latter. Previous to his removal with his parents to Iowa he spent six months clerking in a store, which was his first practical experience with the big world of affairs. He was eighteen when he came to Clear Lake and he has been connected with the lumber business ever since (from 1879) and stepped into his father's place at the demise of that lamented gentleman. His ability is widely recognized; he is very systematic in his conduct of business and in all the country around it would well-nigh impossible to find as well kept and up-to-date a place as his large lumber yards. The main lumber shed is sixty-two by one hundred and sixty-four feet in dimension, with large offices in front and in connection large yards and neat appearing coal sheds. The whole stands in a block of ground, all the buildings being handsomely painted, and it has the appearance of anything rather than the average lumber yard.

The interests of Mr. Woodford, however, are not confined to this business. He was one of the organizers of the North Iowa Brick & Tile Company at Mason City and is a director of the same, belonging also to the directorate of the Cerro Gordo State Bank. He is a director of the Clear Lake Electric Light & Power Company, which he helped to organize some time ago, and is vice president and director of the Clear Lake Independent Telephone Company. He has a wide acquaintance and holds an enviable place in the community. Politically Mr. Woodford gives his heart and hand to the policies and principles promulgated by the Republican party and he and his family are members of the Congregational church. His fraternal relations extend to the Knights of Pythias and his wife belongs to the Pythian Sisters.

Mr. Woodford was united in marriage to Miss Agnes E. Frost.

their union being celebrated May 29, 1889. Mrs. Woodford is a native of Clear Lake, her birth date being January 15, 1867. She is the daughter of George E. Frost, a sketch of whose life appears elsewhere in this volume. They have one child, a daughter named Esther.

HENRY J. HUBER.

America's great strength is solidly grounded in her agricultural element, and serving as a worthy and progressive representative of this class is Henry J. Huber, of Union township. Not only has Mr. Huber done his share toward furthering the cause of scientific cultivation of the soil but he has been of additional worth to his community as one in whom the highest ideals of citizenship were embodied. Mr. Huber was born on December 25, 1864, his parents being Henry and Annie (Sobolek) Huber, the former a native of Indiana. On the maternal side Mr. Huber comes of Bohemian stock, his mother having been a native of that country. Early in life he was deprived of his father, who died in January, 1865, at the age of twenty-eight years. His mother survived until October 4, 1904, when, at the age of sixty-seven years, she passed on to her reward. Mr. Huber was one of four children, of whom two are living, himself and a brother named Tony, who also lives in Iowa. The mother married a second time, her second husband being Joseph Swaehla, who is still living in Fayette county. Six children were the fruit of this union and the four surviving are all of them citizens of Iowa, George and Albert residing in Union township, Theodore in Winnesheik county and Mrs. Julia Thies in Allamakee county.

Mr. Huber was still a child when his step-father came to Fayette county and established himself upon a farm. He passed the usual wholesome, busy life of the lad who is reared in the country, assisting even at an early age in the manifold labors to be encountered upon a farm and gaining the practical experience which has since served him so well in the unrivaled school of experience. When he could be spared he enjoyed the meager educational advantages of the district school. When only fifteen years of age he left the parental roof and set forth to make his own fortunes in the world. Locating in Washington county he secured employment as a farm hand and continued in various similar capacities until 1890, when he decided upon a change of scene and came on to Cerro Gordo county. For two years he continued in the employment of others, and then resolving upon a more inde-

pendent existence, purchased a tract of one hundred acres of land in section 5, Union township. This land, which was unbroken land, he brought into tillable condition and two years later sold it, somewhat to his profit. He subsequently purchased one hundred and sixty acres in section 17 of Union township, which he likewise improved and operated until the fall of 1909, when he again sold out. Shortly afterward he became the possessor of the valuable farm of one hundred and twenty acres which at the present time has been brought to a desirable state of improvement and where he makes his residence. Mr. Huber not only enjoys the respect of the community as one who thoroughly understands the vocation to which he has devoted his energies, but he likewise possesses the confidence of his fellow men, an evidence of this being the fact that for ten years he served as treasurer of Union county. Mr. Huber is a man in whom the social element is not wanting and he is a valued member of the Modern Woodmen of America in their organization at Clear Lake, Iowa. His political convictions are Democratic, and he has given to the party a warm and loyal adherence.

Mr. Huber established a home for himself by his marriage, October 30, 1893, to Miss Mary Stark, who was born in Union township February 17, 1875. Mrs. Huber's father is Joseph Stark, born in Bohemia June 5, 1826. He emigrated from the old country in 1856 and located in Iowa county, Wisconsin, where he purchased a tract of wild land, and in the fashion of the day cleared it of timber and engaged in farming. In 1871 he sold out and drove with his family and effects to Cerro Gordo county, settling in Union township and buying one hundred and sixty acres of wild land. This he improved and adding to it from time to time he came to own six hundred and forty acres. In 1909 he gave up the active duties of agriculture into other hands and removed to Clear Lake, where he is now living in the enjoyment of a well earned leisure. He has to his credit the record of sixty-five years spent in active farming. Mr. Stark's wife was previous to her marriage Miss Barbara Juza, whom he married in Bohemia in 1846. Mrs. Stark, who became the mother of ten children, died in Wisconsin, and in 1874 Mr. Stark contracted a second union, Miss Kate Tusha becoming his wife. Five children were born, four living, of whom Mr. Huber's wife is one. Mr. and Mrs. Huber are the parents of three children, Albert, Fred and Hazel, all of whom are at home.

JAMES H. McCONLOGUE.

James H. McConlogue, an enterprising and prominent attorney who has practiced his profession at Mason City, Iowa, for over a quarter of a century, is a self-made man, having acquired his legal education by his own efforts and after long struggle. He has achieved professional and financial success and is recognized as one of the leading members of the bar in the county. Mr. McConlogue was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, December 5, 1856, son of Charles and Ann (Harrity) McConlogue, both natives of Ireland, who emigrated to the United States as children. They were married at Philadelphia and in 1859 the family moved to Beloit, Wisconsin, thence in a few years to Illinois, and a few years later to Cerro Gordo county, Iowa. On this last trip James walked most of the way and drove the cattle. They settled on a farm, where the mother died three months later, and the father lived there until his decease, in 1882.

The boyhood of James H. McConlogue was spent on his father's farm, and he attended district school winters, helping with the farm work during the summer months. As soon as he was old enough he began working for neighboring farmers, and after leaving home he became employed as a section hand for a railroad company, walking over the track nights and attending school days for two winters. He was at that time very desirous of acquiring a good education and managed to save enough to take a course at Notre Dame University. He taught school and engaged in various other work, reading law during his spare time, and when he had saved enough entered the Iowa State University, from which he graduated with the law class of 1882. He taught school the following winter. He began the practice of his profession at Mason City in the fall of 1883, and soon had established himself in the confidence and esteem of the community. After practicing on his own account for a time he entered into partnership with R. J. Miller, under the firm name of McConlogue & Miller, which lasted two years, and in 1890 he entered into partnership with John D. Glass, under the firm name of Glass & McConlogue, which in 1898 became Glass, McConlogue & Witwer. Mr. Witwer retired from the firm and Remley J. Glass, son of the senior member of the firm, was taken in, the name becoming Glass, McConlogue & Glass.

Mr. McConlogue is recognized as one of the leading members of his profession in his part of the state and has been called upon at times to assist in the trial of cases in other states. One of the most noteworthy cases in which he has appeared as counsel is that

of the state of Iowa vs. Lottie Hughes, in which was secured the acquittal of the wife, who had been charged with murder. This trial lasted for a period of seven weeks. Mr. McConlogue is a member of the American National Bar Association and has served as president of the Iowa State Bar Association, of which he is a member. Although a staunch Democrat he did not support his ticket with regard to the presidential nominee in 1896. He served several times as chairman of the Democratic Central Committee.

Mr. McConlogue married, in 1885, at Rockwell, Iowa, Miss Mary C. Barrahy, who died in September, 1896. Of five children born to them, two sons and two daughters are still living, namely: Mrs. Anna Mae Gram, M. Irene, Raymond B. and James H. McConlogue Jr. In religious belief Mr. McConlogue is a most devout Catholic and has always taken great interest in the history of the church. He has also taken a most active part in supporting its good work. He is a man of broad opinions, having many warm personal friends among all denominations, and is able to attract and hold the affection of those who become acquainted with his high character and kindly spirit. He has the highest esteem of all who have had dealings with him and is identified with many good causes and movements in the community.

AARON A. NOYES, M. D.

Dr. Aaron A. Noyes, a well known medical practitioner in Mason City, Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, was born in Tunbridge, Orange county, Vermont, November 25, 1822, second son of Enoch and Mary Ann Noyes. Dr. Noyes has passed an eventful life and through his own efforts has attained his success in his profession. His parents were very humble in position and felt the stress of poverty. They had nine children, all of whom reached maturity except one daughter, Emma, who died at the age of five years, and as she was the favorite of her brother, Dr. Aaron, he still remembers her tenderly and has always felt her death keenly.

After he reached the age of six years Dr. Noyes spent most of his time away from home, in the families of the neighbors, working for his board and sometimes receiving a peck of potatoes or a small pittance in money. As at that time parents were obliged to pay three dollars a term for each child sent to school he received a very limited education in his early life. His father earned but about fifty cents a day, and as at that time imprisonments were made for debt, he was at one time incarcerated for owing the sum of ten dollars. The family often had to live on wheat bran mush, which



A.A. Noyes M.D

they ate with milk. As a boy Dr. Noyes helped to raise, pull and thrash the flax which his mother later spun, and she carded both her flax and wool by hand. Tons of syrup were made by the people of the region and the boy spent many days carrying two (one on each shoulder) sixteen quart pails of sap.

At the age of ten and one-half years Dr. Noyes went to live in the family of Solomon J. Moore, but was never bound out, as he would never consent to this arrangement. Others of the family went to live in other families. When he was fourteen years of age he was converted under the preaching of Rev. Parker and has since kept his faith, striving to lead a consistent Christian life. He remained with Mr. Moore, eleven years and found in him a very good friend. Mr. Moore had two guns, one a small London fowling piece, which he gave to Aaron Noyes, and the boy became an adept in its use. This gun he recently presented to the oldest son of Dr. Egloff, of Mason City.

At the time Dr. Noyes reached his majority he had no money, as his parents had collected his wages, which amounted to about one thousand dollars, but he had a lamb which had been given him by Mr. Moore, which he sold for three dollars and with the money purchased a trunk, which he later brought west with him. He taught school one year after leaving Mr. Moore, and boarded around. This school was considered a hard one and he was the third teacher hired for the winter, receiving compliments from the school board because he was able to maintain such good discipline. Then he was ill for some time at the home of Mr. Moore, and upon his recovery hired out for eight months with a neighboring farmer, at a salary of eleven dollars a month, working long hours at hard labor for his employer, until September 1, 1844, when he left, voted for Henry Clay for president and the next day started west. At that time the only railroad in the country was from New York to Albany and Rochester. Dr. Noyes left Chelsea, Vermont, for Burlington, taking his few effects in his little leather covered trunk in the wagon. At Burlington he shipped on the steamer "Saranac" for Whitehall, then took a line boat for Buffalo, stopping for a time at old Fort Ticonderoga, and from there he went by rail to Rochester, thence by packet, and overtook the line boat on its way to Buffalo. He visited Niagara Falls, then took the steamer "Minnesota" for Chicago, encountering a severe storm. His destination was Mineral Point, Wisconsin, where an old chum of his boyhood was living. He reached Milwaukee, which was then a village, and was offered some of the land which is now in the center of the city for a price of two dollars an acre. He sent his trunk

ahead by stage and set out to walk to Mineral Point, thus saving part of the expense, as he was able to get his meals at the scattered farm houses. After spending one day with his friend he found employment driving a team for the Franklin hotel. He caught a severe cold and suffered from pneumonia, being cared for by his friend until able to work again. He then purchased a yoke of steers and cut and hauled timber to the village and saw mill. Soon afterward he repaired the mill and operated it himself. In the spring of 1845 he sold his interests in the vicinity, paid his debts and prepared to engage in other business. At this time he shot the first deer he ever saw.

In 1845 Dr. Noyes hired out to superintend the improving of a large farm near Wyoming Valley, which he named Mineral Point, made yokes and broke the oxen to work at plowing and other work. He broke a large amount of land that summer and in the following winter cut rails for fences. He took up a claim of eighty acres of land himself, built a cabin and later harvested eighty bushels of corn to the acre, besides putting up some hay.

In the fall of 1845 Dr. Noyes sent for his parents and brought them from Milwaukee in a wagon, and they were all together again in his log house. He made shot for a Mr. Medcalf for several months, then went to keep books and sell lumber for M. Crossman at the upper mills of the Baraboo Valley. He engaged in reading medicine and also law while suffering from ague. Soon afterward he sold his claim and with his family moved to Middleton, which he was instrumental in naming. He secured forty acres of land there and made another home.

In the fall of 1847 Dr. Noyes went to Madison and took an examination for a teacher, receiving his certificate and teaching that winter. He continued to read medicine until the fall of 1848, then accompanied Dr. Crandall to attend a course of medical lectures at Davenport, Iowa. He was a careful student, being much interested in both medicine and surgery, and graduated from what later became the State University of Iowa in 1850, with the first class from that institution.

Dr. Noyes first engaged in the practice of his profession at Alexandria, Missouri, and continued to practice in Iowa, Missouri and Illinois until April 20, 1851, when he was married, at Iowa City, Iowa, to Miss Maria C. Crandall, who died in June, 1861. She was from the state of New York. After his marriage he returned to Wisconsin by stage, stopping to visit his parents at Middleton, going thence to Madison and then to Baraboo, where he purchased a hotel which was partly furnished, going into debt for

the amount of four thousand five hundred dollars. He secured a good practice in his profession and later traded his hotel for a farm. At Delton, Wisconsin, he leased a flouring mill and located there in a pleasant home, where their first daughter, Emma, was born and later died. Dr. Noyes looked after the mill, a grocery and drug store, and also practiced his profession. Later he returned to Baraboo to live and in 1855 bought out the practice of Dr. Lewis in Portage City, Wisconsin. He secured mill property and pine lands in La Crosse Valley, where he erected a hotel and other buildings, platted a village and subsequently erected a flouring mill. He built one mile of corduroy road to the Milwaukee & LaCrosse Railroad, and acted as railroad agent, besides practicing his profession and conducting a general store. He was doing well when the financial crash of 1856-57-58 came, which caused him much anxiety. He weathered the storm, though he had in his employ fifty or more men, and after he had settled his debts and paid his men he found he had lost over thirty thousand dollars, but settled his affairs without having any suits for indebtedness and was most fair in all his dealings. He returned to Baraboo, where he and his wife lost another child in infancy. He continued in practice and secured a good home, but his wife's health failed after the birth of a son, Raleigh, who also died in infancy. At the time his wife died, June 11, 1861, they had two children living, both of whom reached maturity, namely: Willis Alonzo, who went to West Point as a cadet, contracted the measles, and died at the age of twenty-one years in Delaware county, Iowa, the home of his mother's people; and Alice Maud, who was highly educated in music and taught that art, training bands, etc., at Mason City, died in Minneapolis. Both children were small at the death of their mother, about the time of the outbreak of the war.

Dr. Noyes recruited three full companies and part of two others, but had promised his wife not to leave the children. For his services in recruiting he neither asked for nor received any financial remuneration. Mrs. Noyes taught the second school in Baraboo, and was one of the five who organized the Baptist church there. During his early practice Dr. Noyes lived in thinly settled districts and in the course of his work drove from twenty-five to one hundred miles at one time to visit patients. He always performed his whole duty by his patients and took a personal interest in their welfare, winning many warm friends everywhere.

In February, 1862, Dr. Noyes broke up housekeeping and with his two small children went to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to visit a brother-in-law, stopping en route to visit his own parents. They

were snowed in near Mechanicsville, Iowa, on the Rock Island Railroad, and remained at Cedar Rapids until the spring of 1863, then visited relatives in Dubuque, after which he proceeded to Earlville, Delaware county, where for a time he left both children. Dr. Noyes resumed practice in Delhi, Delaware county, and became very successful in that and surrounding counties.

Dr. Noyes married for his second wife, at Dubuque, Iowa, Mrs. Martha Crozier, only daughter of Rev. D. M. Root, of New York, and they began housekeeping at Delhi, where they remained four years, he serving as a member of the school board at that town. In 1866 he sold out and removed to Waterloo, remaining there until the fall of 1869, then located in Mason City, where his brother Silan was editor and proprietor of the Cerro Gordo County *Republican*. Dr. Noyes entered Mason City on the first passenger train to make the trip, in December, 1869. He had soon established himself in his profession and remained there until 1887, when he removed to Minneapolis and built up a large practice, but was stricken with blindness and for four years was thus afflicted. He was then operated upon by Dr. Spratt, who removed the cataracts. In Minneapolis he lost his daughter Maud, mentioned above, who passed away September 4, 1893, and is buried at Baraboo. His son Willis is buried at Delaware Center, Iowa.

During the financial troubles of 1893 Dr. Noyes was ruined and left almost penniless. He and his wife were solicited to return to Mason City, where they both had hosts of friends. They spent the winter with a niece at Clear Lake, then located in Mason City, where Dr. Noyes has since been associated with Dr. W. J. Egloff in practice. He and his wife have a comfortable home there and he has been successful in a business way. Dr. Noyes was for many years associated with Dr. C. H. Smith, mentioned elsewhere in this work. He has been a member of various medical societies since 1862, including the local, state and American. He was requested in 1903 to share the office of Dr. W. J. Egloff, where his old friends could find him, and he has since assisted in numerous surgical operations. He has been quite prominent in his relations with the various medical societies. In 1862 he assisted in organizing the Delaware County Society; in 1868 was one of the organizers of the Cedar Valley Medical Society, of which he became secretary and treasurer, and served several years in that capacity; in 1871 he organized the Cerro Gordo County Medical Society; in 1872 organized the Upper Cedar Valley Society, with headquarters at Charles City, and he was one of the examining board for the medical department of the University of Iowa in 1876. In 1903 he

was elected an honorary member of the Austin Flint District Medical Society, and July 15, 1904, was elected honorary member of the Cerro Gordo County Society, without fees, and this includes membership, since 1906, in the State Medical Society.

Dr. Noyes has been a medical practitioner for over sixty-four years, in which time he has been of inestimable service to his fellow-men. He has borne many adversities and buffettings of fate, and during his entire life has shown that high quality of courage given to but few. He stands high in his profession and has many friends in all walks of life. Though eighty-eight years of age he is remarkably well preserved. He is a member of the Baptist church as was his wife, and he is interested in every good cause. Mrs. Noyes died August 17, 1910. He was for eighteen years surgeon for the Iowa Central Railroad and was one of the organizers of the Carnegie Library of Mason City. He was a member of the school board when the Central school was built.

ALBERT L. HEMMING.

Albert L. Hemming, one of Pleasant Valley township's progressive farmers, is a native of the Buckeye state having been born in Seneca county, Ohio, December 16, 1860. His parents, George and Lueinda (Roller) Hemming, were also Ohioans, the father born January 5, 1821, and dying March 26, 1893, in Franklin county, Iowa, the mother surviving until April, 1904, her age at the time of her demise being seventy-five years. They were the parents of eight children, the following five of whom are living: Madison T., of Kansas; Mr. Hemming, of this review; Roller, residing in Rockwell; Emily, wife of John Cannon of Colorado Springs, Colorado; and Addie, wife of Hugh Cadwell, of Missouri.

Mr. Hemming inherits his inclinations for farming, for his father was reared upon a farm and followed this estimable calling all his life. In 1861 he moved by team to Franklin county, Iowa, being a fortnight upon the way. Locating in Richland township he purchased forty acres of wild land upon which he erected a log house, which was occupied by the family for about sixteen years, or until Mr. Hemming was almost a young man. They lived the life of the pioneer and met difficulties in the way of subduing the new country which would nowadays be called impossible. At that time Cedar Falls was the nearest market. The father added to his holdings from time to time and lived there until his death.

Albert L. Hemming attended the district school and became solidly grounded in the three R's, and has since supplemented this

early training with study of his own. When he was twenty-one years of age he rented land and began farming for himself. In the year of his marriage, 1888, he bought two hundred and forty acres of raw prairie land in section 31, Pleasant Valley township, paying fifteen dollars an acre. He has added to this and now possesses a tract of four hundred acres, which he has improved in every way, his home and farm being thoroughly modern and up-to-date. He has successfully engaged in stock raising and feeding and for a number of years has been interested in the breeding and raising of Percheron horses. He owns a stallion of this breed which was imported when he was sixteen months old. He purchased him when he was twenty months old and has now had him seventeen years. During that time he has driven him five thousand miles.

Mr. Hemming is a life-long Republican and he has ably filled several offices. He was school director for six years; township secretary for six years; and school treasurer for six years. He and his family are members of the Methodist church at Thornton.

Mr. Hemming was married, January 5, 1888, to Miss Julia Chase, born in Wisconsin August 20, 1870. She is a daughter of Hiram Chase, and both he and his wife are living in Thornton. Mr. and Mrs. Hemming are the parents of four children, Roy, Cora, James and Floyd, all of whom are at home.

JAMES PESTER.

Among Lake township's progressive agriculturists must be mentioned James Pester, who operates a farm of two hundred and forty acres which he rents and he owns a house and three and one-half acres of land on East Main street, Clear Lake, Iowa. He is British in nationality, his birth having occurred in Somersetshire, England, September 29, 1847. His parents were Josiah and Martha (Perry) Pester, who emigrated to America when the subject of this biography was only a babe. They located in Jefferson county, Wisconsin, and remained there until the time of their death, living upon the farm which the father had entered in the early days. This consisted of some four hundred acres, all of it well improved, the father having been an excellent farmer. He died in November, 1905, having almost attained the great age of ninety-one years. The mother died in 1897, having lived almost to the age of seventy. She belonged to the Methodist church. Mr. Pester is one of three sons and four daughters, one of his brothers being now deceased. His brother Henry lives at Oldham, South Dakota; Mrs. Haskell Reynolds resides in Mason City; Mrs. Mary



W.W. Colby

Cloes is located in California; and Mrs. Mattie Vail makes her home in Whitewater, Wisconsin.

Mr. Pester was reared and educated in Jefferson county, Wisconsin, and was unmarried when he came to Iowa. He had no heritage with which to start except his own industry. In 1870 he located in Cerro Gordo county and the following year bought eighty acres near the town in Clear Lake township. He added forty acres and in course of time came to own other farms. In 1902 he sold out and went to North Dakota, purchasing a farm in Grand Forks county. He was not quite satisfied, however, and returning to Clear Lake, bought his present homestead. He gives his allegiance to the Republican party and he and his wife are members of the Methodist church. Fraternally he is a member of the Yeomen of Clear Lake.

In 1871 Mr. Pester was married at Clear Lake to Miss Aberdeen Phillips, a native of St. Lawrence county, New York. She is the daughter of Lorenzo and Doreas (Rose) Phillips, Vermont agricultural folk, and is the only one of her family in this part of the United States. The father died many years ago and the mother survived until 1905, her death occurring when past her seventieth year. Mrs. Pester is the eldest of eight children, seven of whom are living. Her parents were both of them good Methodists and her father was a stalwart Republican. Mr. and Mrs. Pester are the parents of three children. Doreas is the wife of Oren Porter, of Clear Lake, and the mother of two daughters; Mabel, is the wife of Pearley Baker, a Clear Lake township farmer; Flossie May, is a teacher in the county schools.

WILLIAM M. COLBY.

Full of vim and energy, wide-awake and enterprising, William M. Colby holds a high position among the influential citizens of Mason City, and as a promoter is among the foremost to forward all enterprises conducive to the general welfare and advancement. He was born, March 14, 1875, in Dane county, Wisconsin, which was the birthplace of his father, Colburn Colby.

Spending his early life in Wisconsin, Colburn Colby came with his family to Iowa in 1876, locating in Lake township, Cerro Gordo county, where he purchased land and was subsequently engaged in general farming and stock raising until his death, in 1904, at the age of sixty-six years. He married Annie Oscar, who died in Lake township on the home farm in 1906, aged sixty-seven years. Four-

teen children were born to them, William M. being the third child in succession of birth of the seven now living.

Brought up on a farm and receiving a practical common school education, William M. Colby began his active career as agent for the Plano Harvester Company, for which he traveled ten years. He afterwards represented a life insurance company in the states of North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota, being first located at Minneapolis and later at Sioux Falls. In connection with the Cowan Company Mr. Colby located at Mason City in 1906, and here built the Northwestern States Portland Cement Company, after which he started in business on his own account, becoming one of the leading promoters of northern Iowa.

Since 1907 Mr. Colby has promoted the North Iowa Brick and Tile Company of Mason City; the Fort Dodge, Iowa, Brick and Tile Company; has promoted and built the Lehigh Sewer Pipe Company at Lehigh, Iowa, a two hundred thousand dollar corporation; promoted and built the Farmers' Co-operative Brick and Tile Company of Mason City, of which he was president until resigning the office in March, 1910; was promoter, in 1909, of the Washington Brick, Tile and Sewer Pipe Company, a two million dollar corporation in Spokane, Washington; and was one of the organizers of the People's State Bank of Mason City, and served as a director until his resignation, in March, 1910. In 1910 he promoted and organized the Colby Motor Company of Mason City, capitalized at one million dollars and he is president of the same. The Colby Motor Company manufactures automobiles, and are now at work erecting their factory. Starting in life when married with forty dollars worth of furniture, given him by his home people, as his only wealth, Mr. Colby has surely made a grand success in life, being already near the topmost rung of the ladder, and, if his life and health be spared, will doubtless be associated with many important enterprises yet to be established in this and other states. He has accumulated considerable property, and is the owner of six hundred and forty acres of land in Geneseo and Dougherty townships.

Mr. Colby married Mary Agnes Boyle, who was born in Luzerne, Pennsylvania, June 22, 1876, a daughter of Neal and Magdalena (Campbell) Boyle, who came to Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, in 1877, and are now living in Rockwell. Mr. and Mrs. Colby are the parents of six children, namely: Colburn, Marjorie, Mary, Joseph, David and William. Politically Mr. Colby is identified with the Democratic party, and fraternally he belongs to the Knights of Columbus; the Catholic Order of Foresters; and to the

Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Religiously he and his wife are esteemed members of the Holy Family Catholic church.

ELLIS BARLOW.

Of that English stock which forms a large, useful and important element in the citizenship of Cerro Gordo county is Ellis Barlow, an agriculturist who has lived in the county since the spring of 1878 and who now resides on a twelve-acre property in the south part of the town of Clear Lake. He was born in Lancashire, England, October 4, 1848, and is the son of James and Elizabeth (Morrrough) Barlow, who came to America in the spring of 1849 and located on a farm in Dane county, Wisconsin, about twelve miles from Madison. The father entered land and resided upon it up to the time of his death, in 1908, at the age of eighty-six years. The mother died some forty-four years previously. The family was Episcopalian in denomination.

Ellis Barlow was the only child of his parents. He was reared and educated in Dane county, Wisconsin, and received his training as a farmer from his father and in the school of actual experience. When he began to think of starting out in life independently he choose Cerro Gordo county for his location and although he began with practically nothing but his two hands and much enthusiasm he has been very successful. In the year of his arrival he located on a farm of eighty acres, to which he later added one hundred and sixty acres, and this farm of two hundred and forty acres in Cerro Gordo county he improved and still owns. This he operated until about six years ago, when he bought his present home in Clear Lake. He owned at one time four hundred and eighty acres.

On October 30, 1887, Mr. Barlow was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Gorst, a native of Dane county, Wisconsin, born August 10, 1846. Her parents were English and she accompanied them to this county in 1878. The birth of eight children has blessed this union (six of whom are living), as follows: William, (deceased) born in Wisconsin; James, born in Wisconsin and residing on his father's farm; Cora, now Mrs. George Raw, of Clear Lake; Thomas a farmer in this county; Ida, now Mrs. Fred Best, of Mt. Vernon township; Edwin, deceased; Ella, now Mrs. George Best, residing on a farm in this locality; and Eva, now Mrs. J. E. Scisinger, of Mason City.

Mrs. Barlow was a daughter of Thomas and Mary Ann (Appleton) Gorst, residents of Liverpool, England, who came to America

in April, 1846, and located on a farm in Dane county, Wisconsin. The father died January 14, 1886, at the age of sixty-seven years and the mother, March 16, 1907, at the age of eighty-eight years.

They were the parents of the following children: Martha, (deceased); Mary, now Mrs. Young of Minnesota; Elizabeth, (deceased); Fannie, now Mrs. Bonner of Clear Lake; Robert, living in Wisconsin; Thomas, living in Reedsburg, Wisconsin; Helen, (Mrs. Walters), living on the old homestead; Martha (Mrs. Brown), of Areno, Wisconsin; and James, of Areno, Wisconsin.

Mr. Barlow is a man who takes an interest in local matters and he has served in various township offices. He has been successful in his operations and he is a self-made man.

WILLIAM F. DODERER.

One of Bath township's most extensive farmers and one of the county's most highly esteemed and reliable men is William F. Doderer, now making his residence in Rockwell. He was born in Allamakee county, Iowa, May 13, 1864, his parents being Frederick and Catherine (Naas) Doderer, both natives of Germany. The former was a native of Stuttgart, and died in Bath township, Cerro Gordo county, in January, 1890. The latter, who is a native of Hesse-Darmstadt, still resides in Mason City. They came to the United States in their youth and were married in Pennsylvania. The father made his living by the practice of civil engineering and stone cutting, which he had learned in the old country. In 1857 the family came westward to Allamakee county, making the journey by rail and boat. Upon arrival the father bought a farm of wild land and lived upon it until 1870, when he sold and came to Mason City. There he conducted a grocery for six years and then removed to his farm in Bath township of which he had purchased a part in 1869. Although this was all wild at the time it was purchased, a house had been built and some of the ground broken by tenants previous to his moving upon it. It was he, however, who made most of the improvements, built the present house and barn, and added to the land until he was the owner of five hundred acres in Bath township and a one-half interest in one hundred and sixty acres in Mt. Vernon township. There were eleven children in the family, six of whom died young. Those surviving are: Mr. Doderer; J. F., principal of the school in Demming; Minnie, wife of J. H. Hardy, of Mason City; Herman J., residing with his mother; and Elizabeth, wife of John Daum, of Buffalo Center. Mr. Doderer's parents were originally of the German Lutheran

church, but latterly came to affiliate with the Congregational church. The father gave loyal and effective support to the Democratic party, had held the position of town clerk and was secretary of the school board at the time of his death.

William F. Doderer received the best public school education to be had, attending the common school in Bath township and the high schools of Mason City and Rockwell. He remained with his father until that gentleman's death and then after his marriage moved into another house on the family homestead. A short time after he moved back to his father's place and lived there for many years, or until 1910, in the spring of which year he retired and bought and moved to his present home in Rockwell.

In 1892 Mr. Doderer took as his wife Marian Ryburn, daughter of James Ryburn, a sketch of whose career appears elsewhere in this history. She died in October, 1893. In February, 1899, Mr. Doderer was a second time married, this time to Isabelle Kneider, daughter of John and Jane (Traill) Kneider. The former, a Pennsylvanian, and the latter, a native of Scotland, were married in Pennsylvania and came to Carroll county, Illinois, in 1873. After five years there they came to Floyd county, and then to Cerro Gordo county, where they bought a farm in Bath township. The father continued to make his home there until his death in 1892, and for seven years thereafter the mother remained in the old home, in 1899 removing to Rockwell, where she now resides. Mrs. Doderer was one of eight children, six of whom survive: W. H., lives in Carroll county, Illinois; J. J., is a citizen of Owen township; Mary J., is the wife of W. J. Grimes of Hampton; D. W., makes his home in Rockwell; Emma is now Mrs. Sherp; and the youngest member of the family is the wife of the subject of this biography.

Mr. Doderer is a Republican and takes an active interest in all matters vitally concerning the county. He has held several public offices, having been trustee of Bath township for six years, assessor for the same length of time, and for twenty years before he moved to Rockwell was secretary of the school board. At the primary caucus, June 7, 1910, he was nominated for county supervisor. For the past twelve years he has been secretary of the Farmers' Co-operative Society of Rockwell and previous to that was a member of the board of directors. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America and he and his wife are members of the Rockwell Congregational church. In addition to his farm he has other interests. For instance in 1907 the Farmers' Telephone Company of Rockwell was organized, and Mr. Doderer was made

a member of the board. Later he was elected secretary and still later manager and now holds both offices. He is a successful stock raiser and while on the farm each year prepared for the market from one to three carloads of cattle. Mr. and Mrs. Doderer have one daughter, named Ruth, who is six years of age.

JOSEPH S. TEED.

Joseph S. Teed, owner of a farm of one hundred and seventy acres in sections 25 and 26, is an Englishman and one of those who were not born farmers but took up the calling from choice after a trial of other things. The methods employed by him have been to the point and his farm is now excellently improved, an achievement entailing an immense amount of labor, for it included grubbing out by hand. Mr. Teed was born at Wisbige, Cambridgeshire, England, December 24, 1854. He remembers nothing of his birthplace, however, for his parents, Thomas and Elizabeth (Warner) Teed, came to America in 1856 and located in Union Grove, Wisconsin. The father was a miller and baker by trade and had also followed the sea to a considerable extent. In course of time he removed to Chicago, where he owned and sailed a boat on the lakes. He sold this and bought a mill at Libertyville, Illinois, which he managed for two years, or until it was burned in 1862. He thereupon returned to Chicago and resumed sailing, which he followed until his retirement, three years being spent in Cerro Gordo county. His last years were spent in the old home, Union Grove, Wisconsin, where he died in 1892, at the age of seventy-two. The mother was also a native of England. After her husband's death she made her home with her son near Clear Lake, her death occurring there March 21, 1906, at the age of eighty-two. She was an active member of the Methodist church. There were four children besides Mr. Teed: Jane and Robert, deceased; Thomas of Union Grove, Wisconsin; and Emma, deceased.

Mr. Teed spent his early days in Wisconsin and Illinois and received a good common schooling. He was principally occupied in sailing the great lakes until 1894, when he removed to Clear Lake township, Cerro Gordo county, where he has since made his home. When he and his father and brother first came to Cerro Gordo county in 1878 they brought two boats, which they operated for three years upon Clear Lake and in the winter Mr. Teed conducted a cooper shop. He returned to Chicago in 1881 and again sailed the Great Lakes as he had done from boyhood. In April, 1894,

he came back to Cerro Gordo county and located in his present home which had previously been purchased near Clear Lake. He did not yet give up lake navigation, but was for some time associated with Edward Green in this business. He purchased eighty acres of land, and has added to this until he now possesses one hundred and seventy acres.

On December 5, 1882, Mr. Teed was married in Chicago to Miss Emma Woskie, born in Climan, Wisconsin, February 2, 1862. She is the daughter of Julius and Ann (Gay) Woskie, natives of Germany and England respectively. The father, who was an expert wagon and carriage maker, died at the time of the Civil war, while serving as a member of a Wisconsin regiment. The mother married again and has lived in Clear Lake since 1875. She is now eighty-one years of age. Mrs. Teed was one of five children. Henry, of Sleepy Eye, Minnesota, is a railroad engineer on the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad; George, also an engineer, was killed on the road; Otilla resides at Clear Lake; and Elizabeth, now Mrs. Scott, resides in Waseca, Minnesota.

To Mr. and Mrs. Teed have been born the following six children: Thomas, who died in August, 1900, at the age of seventeen years; Artie, born June 4, 1887; Lizzie, born July 8, 1890, and died in February, 1909, while a student at Memorial University; Mabel, born in Chicago, March 26, 1894; Gae, born April 19, 1898; and Ethel, born September 21, 1900.

Mr. Teed gives a stanch allegiance to the Republican party and takes a lively interest in matters pertaining to the general good. His wife has served as school treasurer. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America and his wife to the Royal Neighbors. Artie Teed is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and of the Sons of Veterans.

PETER HARTHAN.

A great part of the strength and prosperity of Cerro Gordo county is due to her agricultural class, and standing as a representative of this is Peter Harthan, who owns and operates a farm of eighty acres located in section 29 of Clear Lake township. Mr. Harthan was born in Bavaria, Germany, September 15, 1855, his parents being Henry and Christina Harthan. He was one of eight children, four of whom are living, as follows: Mr. Harthan; Henry, who is a resident of Clear Lake township; and a brother and sister who reside in Germany. The mother died in Germany when Mr. Harthan was a small child and he was reared by an

uncle. He received a little education, but at the early age of ten was forced to begin his struggle with the world, and made something toward his livelihood by the weaving of baskets.

On July 13, 1872, when Peter Harthan was about seventeen years of age he came to the United States and obtained employment at West Chester, New York, in a sash and blind factory. He continued there for about two years, and then came west, making his appearance at Clear Lake, April 18, 1874. For the following four years he obtained employment by the month as a farm laborer and then he and his brother Henry rented a farm in Union township, which they operated for two years. Mr. Harthan's next move was to come to Clear Lake township, where he rented land until 1887 and successfully engaged in its cultivation. He then purchased one hundred and four acres in section 31, Clear Lake township, and for over ten years (until the fall of 1899) he gave well-directed energy to the improvement and operation of this tract of wild land. He then traded this farm for one at Parker in Turner county, South Dakota, where he made his home until 1901. In this year he sold his South Dakota property and returned to Cerro Gordo county, where he purchased his present homestead of eighty acres. Mr. Harthan belongs to the ranks of the self-made men, his success being wholly attributable to his own efforts. He is a Democrat.

Mr. Harthan's wife was Miss Olive Thompson, born at Dubuque, Iowa, November 17, 1855. Their union occurred in 1877 and has been blessed by the birth of the following ten children: George, of Clear Lake township; James, at home; Grant, of Union township; Emma, wife of Fred Adams of Clear Lake township; Henry, of Clear Lake township; Samuel and Peter at home; Clara, wife of Casper Zoble, residing on the paternal place; and Ethel and Harry, at home. Mr. Harthan was preceded to America by his father and a sister, who located in New York in 1866. The father died at the age of sixty-eight years.

JOHN COBB.

Among the respected citizens of Clear Lake, Iowa, living retired from active life, is John Cobb, a veteran of the Civil war. He came to Cerro Gordo county in 1870 and settled on land in Grant township, where by honest toil and good management he improved a fine farm. Here he carried on agricultural pursuits and made his home for a period of twenty-one years, until 1892, when he moved to Clear Lake, where he has since lived practically retired. In 1908 he sold his farm.

Mr. Cobb is a native of Iowa. He was born in Jackson county, near the town of Iron Hill, January 28, 1844, and is a brother of Edward Cobb, of whom and the family history mention is made elsewhere in this work. John was reared in Jackson county, and made that place his home until 1870, never being absent from home any length of time except during the Civil war. On the 6th of August, 1862, at Maquoketa, Iowa, he enlisted as a member of Company I, Twenty-fourth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and served as a private and non-commissioned officer until the close of the war. He lacked only four days of rounding out three years of army life. He was partly disabled while in the service, but was able to resume his farming operations on his return to Iowa.

On December 21, 1865, in Jackson county, Iowa, he married Miss Nancy Locke, a native of Edgar county, Illinois, born September 24, 1847, daughter of Abram and Sarah (Skinner) Locke. Her father and mother were natives respectively of Kentucky and Virginia and were members of old Southern families of English descent. Her maternal grandfather, Joseph Skinner, had to his record a service of seven years in the war of the American Revolution. In 1847 Mrs. Cobb, then a babe in arms, was brought to Iowa. The family settled on a farm in Monmouth township, Jackson county, where her parents passed the rest of their lives and died, her father dying in 1852, at the age of fifty-one years; her mother, in 1884, at the ripe age of seventy-three. Of their family of twelve children only four are now living, namely: John, of Mount Vernon, Iowa; Joseph, of Kansas; Mrs. Charlotte Loper, of Sumner county, Kansas; and Mrs. Cobb. A daughter, Mrs. John Bantz, now deceased, was formerly a resident of Cerro Gordo county. Mr. and Mrs. Cobb have never had any children of their own, but have reared three: Harry Cobb, a farmer of Lincoln township, Cerro Gordo county, who is married and has one child; Mrs. Jennie Bishel, who resides near Sheffield in Franklin county, Iowa; and Lyle, aged eighteen, at home.

Mr. Cobb has always maintained a deep interest in politics, as a loyal Republican, and has served efficiently in local office, such as clerk of Grant township and as a Clear Lake councilman, in the former office having served twelve years. He is a member of Tom Howard Post, No. 101, G. A. R., of Clear Lake, and Mrs. Cobb belongs to the W. R. C. Both attend worship at the Methodist Episcopal church.

DANIEL J. FARRELL.

Daniel J. Farrell, the present city assessor of Mason City, Iowa, who has for years been identified with the progress and development of that place, is a native of Nova Scotia, born September 27, 1843. He is a son of William and Catherine (Walsh) Farrell, the father a native of Ireland, born December 4, 1798, and died at Mason City, in 1882, and the mother, born in Newfoundland in 1808, died in 1892. They were parents of nine children, of whom are now living, Daniel J.; Joseph, ex-postmaster of Mason City; and Catherine, wife of Anthony Solon, of Sanborn, Iowa.

When he was eleven years old William Farrell went to sea as a cabin boy, and was a sailor the remainder of his life. He sailed out of New York fifty years as master of a merchant ship, and was for a time a pilot on an English vessel detailed to protect the Newfoundland fisheries. He traveled over most of the world, and after he was too old to follow his calling any longer, spent the remainder of his life in Mason City, retired from active labor.

Daniel J. Farrell moved to New York city in 1856, and in 1861 went with his mother to Philadelphia, from which port the father sailed for some time. Later the young man came west and worked some time in the vicinity of Waverly and Cedar Falls, at masonry and brick laying. He located in Mason City in 1864, at which time most of the main street was a corn field and he could have purchased the land around his present home for one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre, the nearest railroad points at that time being Cedar Falls and Austin, Minnesota. He followed his trade in Mason City and there was married in 1871. In the fall of 1872 he left his wife and six months old babe and went to the Pacific coast, where he worked at his trade for a year and then returned home. About two years later he again made the same trip. He has been a contractor for years and has seen Mason City develop from a straggling village to a prosperous, thriving city, helping not a little in promoting the progress and welfare of the place, and has erected a number of the most substantial buildings.

Mr. Farrell is independent in politics and has held several offices. He served some time as deputy county auditor, was deputy city assessor, and is now serving his second term as assessor. He has always been faithful in the discharge of his public duties, giving them the same careful attention he has always bestowed upon his private affairs. He owns considerable residence property in Mason City and has been successful in a financial way. He and his wife are members of the Holy Family Catholic church.



C. M. Swale

On June 5, 1871, Mr. Farrell married Elizabeth Powers, who was born in Elmira, New York, January 10, 1840, and four children have blessed this union, namely: Mary, wife of E. A. Wickham, of Council Bluffs, Iowa; Dr. William D., of Aberdeen, South Dakota; Daniel P., at home; and Justin, of Detroit, Michigan.

CLARENCE M. SWALE, M. D.

A man of broad culture and high mental attainments, educated both at home and abroad, Clarence M. Swale, M. D., of Mason City, holds a place of distinction among the foremost physicians and surgeons of Cerro Gordo county, and by reason of his skill and ability is accorded a position of eminence in professional circles. He was born July 5, 1871, in Fayette county, Iowa, a son of Thomas Swale. Born and bred in England, Thomas Swale came to this country at the age of twenty-six years, locating first in Wisconsin, where he was for awhile employed in ditching. Locating in 1870 in Fayette county, Iowa, he took up a tract of raw land, and by dint of persevering industry succeeded in clearing a homestead. Economical and thrifty, he made wise use of his money as it accumulated, at one time having title to eight hundred acres of land in that county. He was an excellent worker, continuing active as a farmer until his death, in 1884, at the age of sixty-three years. He married Elizabeth Cummings, who was born in Canada and died, in 1909, in Iowa, aged eighty-six years.

The youngest of a family of thirteen children, nine of whom are now living, Clarence M. Swale spent the days of his boyhood and youth on the home farm. After leaving the district school he attended the West Union High School, subsequently continuing his studies for two and one-half years at the Upper Iowa University in Fayette. Beginning his career as a boy of seventeen he taught school two years in the country. Beginning to read medicine with Dr. S. E. Robinson, of West Union, he remained under his tuition a few months, in the spring of 1892 taking a course of study at Rush Medical College in Chicago. Going then to Oshkosh, Wisconsin, he did hospital work under the direction of Dr. C. W. Oviatt for awhile, after which he returned to Rush Medical, where he was graduated in June, 1895, with the degree of M. D. The remainder of that year Dr. Swale was an interne at the Alexian Brothers Hospital in Chicago, gaining valuable experience while there.

Locating in Mason City, Iowa, in the winter of 1896, Dr. Swale has since built up an extensive patronage in this part of the state.

winning an enviable reputation for skill, both as a physician and a surgeon. A man of his mental calibre naturally keeps himself well informed in regard to all of the modern methods used in medicine and surgery, and he recently spent six months in Europe, visiting the leading hospitals and taking post graduate courses in London, Berlin, Paris and Copenhagen. Energetic and independent, he has been largely the architect of his own fortunes, even paying his own way through the Upper Iowa University from the proceeds obtained by giving boxing lessons, although he was not obliged to do so.

On May 9, 1909, Dr. Swale, with other physicians of Mason City, opened the City Park Hospital, of which he is the president. He is a member of the Cerro Gordo County Medical Association; of the Iowa State Medical Association; of the American Medical Association; and of the Austin Flint Cedar Valley Medical Association. For three years he was health officer of Mason City, and is now serving his third term as city alderman, representing the third ward. Fraternally the Doctor is a member of Cerro Gordo Lodge No. 70, K. of P.; of Mason City Lodge No. 375, B. P. O. E.; of Wileox Camp No. 709, M. W. A.; of Midland Lodge No. 226, M. B. A.; of Morean Homestead, No. 162, Brotherhood of American Yeomen; and also of the Eagles.

Dr. Swale married in January, 1905, Lillian Garmidge, who was born in Mason City, Iowa, a daughter of Byron and Elizabeth (Holliston) Garmidge, whose children are as follows: Lillian, now Mrs. Swale, Effie and Charles. Mr. Garmidge was born March 9, 1850, in Columbus, Wisconsin, and in 1869 located in Mason City, where he was variously employed, first as a farmer and grain dealer; later conducting a drug store; then a livery business; and at the time of his death, March 25, 1902, having been a real estate dealer. His wife, who was born in Buffalo, New York, May 26, 1851, is now a resident of Mason City. The Doctor and Mrs. Swale have one child, Douglas G. Swale. Politically the Doctor is a liberal and progressive Republican. In the line of his profession he makes a specialty of Surgery, Gynecology and Consultation.

CHARLES A. MEDDAUGH.

Charles A. Meddaugh, member of a well-known family of Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, and the last of that family to die, passed away at his home at Clear Lake, May 16, 1906. Mr. Meddaugh was born at Slaterville, Tompkins county, New York,

November 25, 1841, son of Peter and Nancy (Hollowell) Meddaugh, both natives of the "Empire state." Peter Meddaugh was born at Poughkeepsie, July 4, 1795, and died September 23, 1866, at his home four miles north of Mason City, Iowa. His wife, a native of Dutchess county, died February 20, 1882, at the age of seventy-five years, while on a visit at Boiceville, New York. They were the parents of a large family, of whom three sons and three daughters grew to adult age, and, as above noted, Charles A. was the last. In 1855, when he was a boy in his teens, the family moved west to Iowa and the father secured title to a tract of land in Lime township, Cerro Gordo county, four miles north of Mason City, where he carried on farming operations until his death. Here Charles A. grew to manhood.

On October 21, 1866, at the home of the late Thomas G. Emsley, in Mason City, Iowa, Charles A. Meddaugh and Miss Margaret G. Emsley were united in marriage. After their marriage they went direct to Florida, where Mr. Meddaugh and a brother had bought a plantation, and for four years they maintained their residence there, but subsequently they frequently returned and for years their winters were spent in Florida. About 1898 Mr. Meddaugh sold the Florida plantation, and afterward owned and operated considerable land in Cerro Gordo county, continuing this up to the time of his death. He always took an active interest in local affairs, and at the time of his demise was a member of the City Council of Clear Lake, his political affiliation being with the Democratic party. He was a Knight Templar Mason, a member of Antioch Commandery of Mason City, and both he and his wife received the degrees of the auxiliary order, O. E. S. Also he had membership in the K. of P. and the M. W. A.

To Mr. and Mrs. Meddaugh were given two sons: Lofton A., born in Florida, August 19, 1870, died in June, 1898, at Clear Lake, Iowa; and Karl E., born October 30, 1879, at Clear Lake, died at same place December 26, 1898.

Mrs. Meddaugh is still a resident of Clear Lake, occupying the home her husband built about 1880. She was born in Mechanicstown, Ohio, February 23, 1846, daughter of William W. and Beatrice H. (Donaldson) Emsley. Her father was a native of Yorkshire, England. He was born March 25, 1813, and about 1818 was brought by his parents to America, the family home being established at Mechanicstown, Ohio. Her mother was born May 5, 1818, in Florida, New York, and February 15, 1836, was united in marriage with Mr. Emsley. Mr. Emsley died August 25, 1849, at Mechanicstown, and Mrs. Emsley survived him until

March 16, 1907, when she died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Meddaugh, at Clear Lake, at the age of eighty-nine years. Mrs. Meddaugh and the late Thomas G. Emsley, of Mason City, Iowa, of whom mention is made on other pages of this volume, were the only children of William W. and Beatrice H. Emsley who grew to maturity. On August 10, 1910, Mrs. Meddaugh married R. A. Halt, a farmer of Cerro Gordo county.

EDWARD COBB.

Edward Cobb, a retired farmer and venerable citizen of Clear Lake, Iowa, has resided here during the past twenty-two years. The greater part of his active life was spent in Lincoln township, Cerro Gordo county, where he still owns a fine farm which he improved. Also he improved another farm in that township, which he sold. His identity with this county dates from 1865, when he came here from Jackson county, this state, he having come to Iowa with his parents when he was a child.

Mr. Cobb is a native of the "Empire State." He was born in Essex county, New York, August 1, 1830, eldest of a family of nine children, all of whom are still living and enjoying good health. In 1838 his parents moved to Illinois and the year following came over into Iowa and settled on a farm in Monmouth township, Jackson county, near what was known as the Big Woods. On this farm they reared their large family, and here the father and mother died when well advanced in years. Both are buried in Buckhorn cemetery, near the old home. Thus Edward was reared from his ninth year in Iowa. Before coming to Cerro Gordo county he spent a year and a half in Minnesota. He had married some years previously, and in 1865, with wife and children, four horses and five head of cattle, he landed in Lincoln township and took up his residence here, having little capital at the time but possessing a good share of pluck and energy. With borrowed money he bought his first eighty acres of land. To this he added until at one time he owned three-quarters of a section, the result of hard work and good management.

On February 13, 1853, at Millrock, Jackson county, Iowa, Edward Cobb and Lucy Taylor were united in marriage, and at this writing, 1910, they have traveled life's pathway together for a period of fifty-seven years. Mrs. Cobb, like her husband, is a native of New York state, born July 29, 1835. She accompanied her parents to Iowa about 1851, and was reared on a farm in Jackson county. Of the children born to Mr. and Mrs. Cobb,

eight in number, two died young and two when they had reached young manhood. Those living are: Mrs. A. C. Brown, a widow of Mason City; E. T., a farmer of Lincoln township; Mrs. Addie A. Mason, a widow residing in Dakota, where she has a claim; and Mrs. W. J. McGowen, whose husband is a hardware merchant of Clear Lake. The grandchildren number nine and there is one great-grandchild in the family—a grandson of Mrs. Brown.

Politically Mr. Cobb is a Republican. In his prime he served in various township and school offices. He was a member of the Sons of Temperance many years ago, but he has never allied himself with any of the fraternal organizations.

LUTHER R. HARDING.

Numbered among the sterling representatives of the great basic industry of agriculture in Cerro Gordo county is this well-known pioneer whose name initiates this paragraph and he is the owner of a finely improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres, eligibly located in sections 21 and 22 of Lincoln township. He has been a resident of this county for nearly forty years, and it has been his privilege and pleasure to contribute his measure to the industrial and civic development and upbuilding of one of the opulent and progressive sections of the fine old Hawkeye state. Upon coming to this county Mr. Harding first located near Mason City but for the past thirty-six years he has resided on his present homestead in Lincoln township. His energy, industry and progressive methods are clearly shown in the status of his farm, which is under a high degree of cultivation and which has permanent improvements of the highest order.

Luther R. Harding was born in Orange county New York, on the 23d of April, 1832, and is a son of Harvey and Fanny (Reeves) Harding, both of whom are likewise natives of the old Empire state, which continued to represent their home until their death and within which the respective families were founded in the pioneer days of the history of that commonwealth. The mother died at the old home in New York and the father passed away while making a visit to his son in Iowa. The family name has been identified with agricultural pursuits in America since the Colonial epoch, and its representatives have ever stood exemplar of sterling integrity in all the relations of life. The subject of this review was third in order of birth in a family of nine children, of whom seven are living, including two of his brothers who are residents of Cerro Gordo county.

Mr. Harding was reared to maturity in his native county and his educational advantages were those afforded in the common schools of the locality and period. There he continued to be actively engaged in farming until he had attained the age of forty years and he then came to Iowa and took up his residence in Cerro Gordo county, as has already been noted. At one time he was the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of land in Lincoln township but he has since reduced his homestead by sale and by providing farms for his sons. He has been true to the duties of citizenship and has so demeaned himself as to retain at all times the unqualified esteem of his fellowmen. In politics he maintained an independent attitude. His wife is a member of the Congregational church.

At Otisville, New York, on the 11th of March, 1858, Mr. Harding was united in marriage to Miss Hanna Maria Mapes, who was born and reared in Orange county, that state. Of the five children, three are living,—Alva and Edgar, who are successful farmers of Lincoln township, and Harvey T., who is engaged in the coal business in the city of Seattle, Washington. Mr. and Mrs. Harding have ten grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

MICHAEL J. BURKE.

Twenty-five acres of the present site of Cartersville was once owned by Michael J. Burke, a farmer and implement dealer residing in this town. This land which was once a portion of his farm was sold by him in 1901. Mr. Burke was born in Dane county, Wisconsin, November 27, 1862, and like so many of the citizens of this part of Cerro Gordo county is of Irish extraction. The father Michael Burke was born in county Mayo, Ireland, and died on Mr. Burke's farm in 1903, at the advanced age of ninety years. The mother, Julia (Bannon) Burke, a native of county Galway, Ireland, died in 1890, at the age of sixty years. Michael Burke came to the United States when about twenty-four years of age and married in Massachusetts. In the early '40s he came to Wisconsin and located in Dane county, where he bought government land at a dollar and a quarter an acre. He walked from a point eighteen miles east of Madison to Milwaukee, where the land office was situated, to enter his land. The land was desirable and very cheap and he walked all in one night, getting there ahead of the stage which carried a party also after land at that price. The land was covered with timber, undergrowth and tamarack swamp.

He grubbed this out and cleared it and made a good farm out of it, which he operated until 1871, when he sold out and came to Cerro Gordo county.

Here he purchased two hundred acres of wild land in section 3, Dougherty township, and erected thereupon a frame house, sixteen by twenty-four feet. This he farmed until the death of his wife in 1890, when he went to live at his son's home, and there lived until his demise. Michael Burke and his wife were the parents of eight children, four of whom are living. They are Patrick, of British Columbia; Mr. Burke, of this review; Kate, the wife of William Conner of Mason City, Iowa; and Julia, wife of James Preston of Rockwell.

Michael J. Burke received his education in the district school near his father's farm in Wisconsin, and remained under the home roof until his marriage in 1886. He then purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 33, Owen township, which he proceeded to improve. In 1901, as previously mentioned, twenty-five acres of this was platted and became a part of Cartersville. He still owns an excellent farm of one hundred and thirty-five acres. In 1905, on account of poor health and to educate his children he moved to Rockwell. In the spring of 1909 he returned to his farm and in November of that year he and his eldest son embarked in the implement and farm machinery business at Cartersville.

Mr. Burke pays fealty to the Democratic party and gives an intelligent consideration to affairs of a public nature. He has served as road supervisor; is a director of the Cartersville Supply Company; and for a number of years was connected with the Farmer's Co-operative Society at Rockwell. He is a member of St. Lawrence Lodge, No. 644, Catholic Order of Foresters at Rockwell, and he and his family are members of the Sacred Heart Catholic church at Rockwell.

In February, 1886, Mr. Burke laid the foundation of a home by his marriage to Miss Margaret O'Connor, born in Dubuque county, Iowa, in 1864. Six children have been born to them, the following five of whom are living and at home: Martin U., Julia L., Edmund M., John A. and Luella M.

EUGENE HILTS.

Eugene Hilts, a farmer and stock-raiser, is a factor in that substantial agricultural class which has done more than anything else to give Cerro Gordo county its strength. He is by birth an

easterner, his birth having occurred in Gouverneur, St. Lawrence county, New York, February 12, 1866.. He is the son of Theodore and Bertha (Tibbetts) Hilts, natives of New York and members of old families. The father was of Mohawk Dutch descent, his father having been a native of Holland. Mr. Hilts' father engaged in farming during most of his active life and saw service during the Civil war as a member of a New York regiment. He is now sixty-eight years of age, is retired, and is residing in East Tawas, Michigan. The mother died in 1874, when a comparatively young woman, and the father married again. Mr. Hilts has one sister, Mrs. Byron Barriger, of De Kalb Junction, St. Lawrence county, New York.

Eugene Hilts was reared in New York, received a common-school education and is practically a self-made man. When he came to Iowa he had no capital to speak of, but managed well and has been successful. He now owns and operates one hundred and sixty acres of land finely improved by himself. This is located in Grant township. The date of his arrival in Cerro Gordo county is February 4, 1889. During most of the years since the attainment of his majority Mr. Hilts has given his support to the Republican party, although he is not too much partisan to support a measure he believes to be right if advocated by the other. He has the interest of the country at heart and has served as trustee for the past six years. He and his family are members of the United Brethren church.

Mr. Hilts was married in 1881 to Miss Dora Booth, a native of Grant township and a daughter of Mrs. Susan Booth, who still resides here, at the age of eighty-four years. The father died in 1904, aged eighty and a half years. Mr. and Mrs. Hilts are the parents of two sons: Elton C. aged eighteen years and Carroll aged four.

RANKIN W. KIMBLE.

Rankin W. Kimble, a prominent farmer, owning and operating an excellently improved farm of two hundred and twenty acres in section 27, Lincoln township, has been a resident of Cerro Gordo county since 1888. He engages in general farming and for the past twelve years has made a specialty of Holstein cattle. Mr. Kimble was born in Rock county, Wisconsin, January 30, 1846, and is the son of Newcomb and Eliza (Kellam) Kimble. His parents were pioneers of Rock county and came originally from Pike county Pennsylvania. The father was a man of considerable prominence

and held various offices. He was justice of the peace for many years and occupied the position of postmaster through several administrations. He died in 1904, having attained the age of eighty-six years, the mother's demise having occurred some fourteen years previously, at the age of seventy years. Mr. Kimble had three brothers and two sisters, namely: Charles, of Lincoln township, where he has resided for the past twenty-five years; Rice Kimble, who operates a farm in Rock county, Wisconsin; Warren, engaged in the manufacturing business in Manchester, Michigan; Grace, a resident of Detroit, Michigan; and Mrs. Jack Kimble, wife of a farmer located near Manchester, Michigan.

Rankin W. Kimble was reared in Wisconsin and obtained his education in the common schools of the state. He early chose farming for his life work and has been successful, particularly in the raising of high grade cattle. His ability in this line seems to be in the nature of a heritage, for the Kimbles, who are an old American family, have generally been farmers and stock raisers. He takes an interest in public affairs and gives his allegiance to the Democratic party.

On May 5, 1881, Mr. Kimble was united in marriage with Miss Margaret Godfrey, also a native of Rock county, Wisconsin. Mrs. Kimble's parents were Irish, having emigrated from Erin and become Wisconsin pioneers. Both of them died in Rock county, Wisconsin. Mr. and Mrs. Kimble are the parents of four children, the two elder born in Wisconsin and the two younger in Cerro Gordo county. They are: Lizzie, the wife of Howard Harding, residing in Lincoln township with their two children, Boyd and Garnet; Maurice and Homer, who live at home and operate their father's farm; and Eunice, also at home.

ROBERT GIBSON.

Robert Gibson, a retired farmer and dealer in poultry and cream, is a valued citizen of Rockwell and of Cerro Gordo county, where he has lived since 1875. He is a Civil war veteran and belonging as he did to the Army of the Potomac, saw some of the hardest service. He was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, June 2, 1844, but he is Irish in extraction, both of his parents being natives of the Emerald Isle. Their names were Alexander and Jane (Hammond) Gibson. They came to the United States about 1838, bringing with them three children and the father, who was a farmer, almost at once took his family to a farm in Pennsylvania, where he and his wife lived during the re-

mainder of their lives, he dying in 1872 and she, in 1869. Mr. Gibson was the sixth of seven children, four of the family having been born after the emigration to America. Of these Mrs. Margaret McDowell lives in Pennsylvania; George came to Iowa at the time of the war, settled in Bath township, Cerro Gordo county in 1875, and died in Rockwell in 1906, having retired some time previously; Joseph died at St. John while the family were en route to the United States; Mrs. Maria Austraw died in Pennsylvania, as did William H., the fifth member; the youngest child is Alexander D., who lives in Hansell, Franklin county, Iowa.

Robert Gibson received his education in the public schools of Pennsylvania and gave of his youthful energies to the labor on his father's farm. On May 28, 1863, he enlisted for three months in the Pennsylvania state troop, which was stationed for a time around Pittsburg and then sent to Ohio in pursuit of raiders. On February 24, 1864, he enlisted in Company D, Fourth Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry, the regiment being sent to Virginia and being incorporated in the Army of the Potomac. Mr. Gibson saw much fighting, at the Wilderness, Cold Harbor, Spottsylvania, and Petersburg, not to mention many skirmishes and smaller engagements. While upon a scouting expedition in search of Mosby's Guerillas he was wounded in the left side and the right shoulder, (March 13, 1865). He was sent first to the field hospital, then to City Point, Virginia, then to Washington, and was finally transferred to Philadelphia. He rejoined the regiment at Lynchburg, Virginia, in the latter part of May, 1865. There on the 2d of July he was mustered out and was discharged at Pittsburg July 13.

Upon his return to civil life Mr. Gibson engaged in farming and teaming. He was married in 1867 and in 1869 moved to LaMoile, Bureau county, Illinois, where he rented land and devoted his energies to farming. In 1872 he came to Franklin county, Iowa, and bought eighty acres of wild prairie. He broke about half of this and built a house and there lived until 1875, when he came to Cerro Gordo county. He located in Bath township and bought land, ultimately coming to possess three hundred and twenty acres. Only the first eighty acres was wild land. A frame house and barns were constructed and here Mr. Gibson made his home until 1895, when he came to Rockwell. He kept one hundred and sixty acres of his holdings, giving his son eighty acres and selling him the same amount. He bought a home in Rockwell with the intention of making it his permanent home, an intention which he has carried out. For two years he conducted a meat market and has since dealt in poultry, eggs, cream and stock.



Frank G. Murphy

Latterly he confines himself to cream and poultry. He has Republican convictions and has served as a member of the school board in Bath township and Rockwell. He has several fraternal associations, his membership extending to the G. A. R., the I. O. O. F. and the Mystic Toilers. He and his wife belong to the Methodist church.

Miss Susan M. McDowell became the wife of Mr. Gibson January 9, 1867. She is a native of Pennsylvania, as were her parents, Bar and Martha (Austraw) McDowell, the father being born on the old homestead where the grandfather also had his nativity. Mr. and Mrs. McDowell lived upon this ancestral place for many years, the mother dying there in 1880 and the father remaining until 1895, since which time he has lived with Mr. and Mrs. Gibson, being now ninety years of age. Robert Gibson and his wife are the parents of nine children: William D. is a stock buyer; Bar died at the age of one year; Robert Elmer died at nineteen; Myrtie is the wife of C. R. Saylor; Gertrude is the wife of A. L. Saylor; Winnie married Frank Johnson; Hattie died in infancy; Jennie is the wife of Leo Zeidler; and Lu is a teacher at Rockwell.

FRANK G. MURPHY, M. D.

One of the essentially representative physicians and surgeons of Iowa who is duly appreciative of the value and expediency of concentration in the work of his profession is Dr. Murphy, who has made a specialty of the treatment of the diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat and who is engaged in active practice in Mason City, where he occupies a handsome suite of offices in the Park Hospital, of which well ordered institution he is one of the six owners, the property being controlled by a stock company and known as the City Park Hospital Company. This hospital is practically under the immediate supervision of Dr. Murphy, and the same admirable provision for the treatment of the diseases to which he gives his special attention, he being one of the leading representatives of this department of practice in northern and central Iowa.

Dr. Murphy, who has been established in the practice of his profession in Mason City since 1894, claims the fine old Badger state as the place of his nativity. He was born in Grant county, Wisconsin, on the 14th of April, 1867, and is a son of John B. and Alice (Graham) Murphy, the former of whom was born in New York city and the latter in Pennsylvania. John B. Murphy was twelve years of age at the time of the family removal to Wisconsin

and his wife was about eleven years old at the time of her parents' removal to the same state, where both families thus took up their abode in the pioneer days. Mrs. Murphy continued to reside in Grant county, Wisconsin, until her death, at the age of fifty-six years, and her husband now resides at Boscobel, that county, having devoted the major portion of his active career to farming and stock-growing, besides which he was for a number of years successfully engaged in the buying and shipping of live stock. John B. Murphy was one of the loyal sons of the Republic who went forth to do valiant service in defense of the Union during the Civil war. He responded to President Lincoln's first call for volunteers, in 1861, by enlisting as a member of Company II, Seventh Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, which gained a high reputation as a part of the historic "Iron Brigade." He was promoted from the rank of private to that of first sergeant and he continued in active service with his command for three years, at the expiration of which he received his honorable discharge. He participated in all of the important and sanguinary engagements in which his command was involved, including the battles of Gettysburg, Petersburg, South Mountain, Antietam and all others that brought so great distinction to the famous "Iron Brigade." He is affiliated with the Grand Army of the Republic and has long been numbered among the honored and influential citizens of Grant county, Wisconsin.

The boyhood and youth of Dr. Murphy were passed on the old homestead farm in Wisconsin and his early educational advantages were those afforded in the public schools of the locality. This discipline was supplemented by a course in the high schools at Bloomington and the Wisconsin Normal School at Platteville, which institution he attended for three years. Thereafter he passed three and a half years as a clerk in the war department in the city of Washington, D. C. In the national capital also he began the work of preparing himself for his chosen profession, as he there attended for two years the medical department of Columbian University, now known as the George Washington University. Later he entered the medical department of Howard University at Washington, D. C., in which institution he completed the prescribed technical course and was graduated as a member of the class of 1893, duly receiving his well earned degree of Doctor of Medicine. For one year after his graduation Dr. Murphy was identified with the work of his profession in the city of Washington, specializing in diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat. Then he came to Iowa and located at Newton, Jasper county, where he re-

mained a few months, at the expiration of which, in September, 1894, he removed to Mason City, where he has since continued in the successful work of his profession and where he has devoted his attention especially to the treatment of the diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat, as has already been indicated. He has given most careful study and investigation to his special domain of practice, in connection with which he has done effective post-graduate work in New York city and other cities and he may well be regarded as one of the leading specialists in his line in the state which he has chosen as his home and field of endeavor. The Doctor is identified with the Austin Flint-Cedar Valley Medical Society, of which he has served as president, and he also holds membership in the Cerro Gordo County Medical Society, the Iowa State Medical Society, the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Ophthalmology & Otolaryngology. For the past decade he has been oculist for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Company.

While Dr. Murphy has maintained a liberal and loyal attitude as a citizen and has given his influence and co-operation in the furtherance of all measures projected for the general welfare of the community he has never consented to permit the use of his name in connection with public office, though he is numbered as a stanch supporter of the principles and policies for which the Republican party stands sponsor. In the Masonic fraternity he has completed the circle of the York Rite, being affiliated with the lodge, chapter, council and commandery and with the temple of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine at Cedar Rapids. He also holds membership in the Mason City Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Dr. Murphy has three children: John L., Mildred and Arthur Franklin.

RICHARD D. BROWNELL.

Worthy of notice among the alive, wide-awake business men of Mason City is Richard D. Brownell, a well-known and prosperous stock dealer. A son of Richard G. Brownell, he was born July 15, 1854, in Genoa, Cayuga county, New York. Born in New York state in 1801, Richard G. Brownell began his active career as a merchant in Genoa, Cayuga county. He afterwards retired from business and moved to Newark, New Jersey, where he resided until his death, in 1867. He married Mary Dunning, who was born in the Empire state in 1813, and died in 1858. They became the parents of six children, of whom but two are now living,

namely: Amy B., wife of W. H. Haynes, of Chicago, Illinois; and Richard D., the subject of this sketch. Another son, O. A. Brownell, for a long time a resident of Mason City, was for six years county treasurer of Cerro Gordo county.

At the age of sixteen years, his parents being dead, Richard D. Brownell left his native state, coming in 1870 to Cerro Gordo county, Iowa. He, with his brother O. A. Brownell, and brother-in-law, T. N. Miller, purchased three hundred acres of land northwest of Mason City. The farm was known as "City View Stock Farm," and here they bred thoroughbred Short-horn cattle, sheep, etc., until 1882, when the farm was sold to Sanborn & Alexander. At the present time the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad machine shops and round house are located on this farm. The B. and O. addition is located on eighty acres of the farm, a large part of this addition being improved with houses of modern architecture and construction.

On selling his land Mr. Brownell located at Mason City, where he has since profitably engaged in the stock business. He is a firm supporter of the principles of the Republican party. Having never married Mr. Brownell has never known the responsibilities, the trials nor the happiness of domestic life.

ALANSON T. PARKER.

Public-spirited, progressive and influential, Alanson T. Parker, of Mason City, is a worthy representative of all that constitutes an exemplary citizen, being active and interested in the public welfare, pleasant and genial in social circles, and in business life an honored and trusted man, one with whom it is a pleasure to deal. He was born, May 14, 1840, in Herkimer county, New York, which was also the birthplace of his father, Archibald Parker. Archibald Parker spent his entire life in the Empire state, his birth occurring in 1808, and his death seventy-seven years later. He married Cassandra Hoxie, who was born in Madison county, New York, in 1809, and died at the age of fifty-three years. Of their seven children but two survive, Peter, of Oswego county, New York; and Alanson T.

Brought up on the home farm, Alanson T. Parker was educated in the common schools and the village academy. In 1870, following the advice of Horace Greeley, he started westward in search of more promising opportunities for increasing his finances and came direct to Cerro Gordo county. Locating in Mason City, Mr. Parker embarked in the milling business with his cousin, H. G.

Parker, with whom he was associated as a miller for a quarter of a century, during which time these two enterprising gentlemen built Parker's Opera House, a three-story building at the corner of Sixth and Main streets, in which Mr. Parker still retains his interest. Mr. Parker was subsequently engaged in the grocery business here for ten years, but sold out and is now devoting his time to his business as a real estate dealer and to the care of his private interests, which are quite extensive. He owns property of value in Mason City, and has also a large ranch in Wisconsin.

When Mr. Parker came to Mason City it was a mere hamlet, containing but six hundred souls. He foresaw its possibilities, and bravely putting his shoulder to the wheel of progress has been a prime mover in the inauguration of beneficial improvements, and has watched with genuine satisfaction and pride its gradual development into one of the most enterprising and thriving cities of northern Iowa. He is an uncompromising Republican in his political affiliations, and fraternally is a member of Cerro Gordo Lodge, No. 70, K. of P., and of Mason City Lodge, No. 375, B. P. O. E.

Mr. Parker has been twice married. He married first, in 1874, Belle L. Wilcox. She died in 1881, aged thirty-three years, leaving one child, Belle L. Mr. Parker married for his second wife, in 1884, Martha J. Forsythe, who was born in Watertown, Wisconsin, in 1853. Mrs. Parker is a member of the Congregational church.

HENRY KRUG.

Among the representative farmers and stock raisers of Falls township, Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, is Henry Krug, who owns and occupies a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in section 26. Mr. Krug is a native of Canada, born near Tavistock, November 26, 1860, son of Conrad and Anna K. (Buchanan) Krug, both of German birth. Conrad Krug was born at Hessen-Darmstadt, Germany, June 18, 1833; his wife, May 31, 1830. In 1856, the year following their marriage, they emigrated to America and took up their residence in Canada, where they remained until the spring of 1865, when they came to Iowa. Henry was then five years of age. His father rented a farm in section 36, Falls township, Cerro Gordo county, and later bought eighty acres, which he at once improved with buildings. His labor was soon lost, however, for in the fall of 1866 a fire swept away everything he had accumulated. After this he sold his land and for some time resided in Portland

township. His next land purchase was one hundred and eighty acres a mile and a half northeast of Rock Falls, where he lived until within two years of his death. This property still belongs to his estate. He died at his home in Rock Falls, January 13, 1899. His widow survived him until October 21, 1908, when her death occurred at Alden, Iowa. Both were worthy members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Conrad Krug was a man of few words and strict integrity. He had some capital when he landed in Iowa, which he used to good advantage, and he was soon recognized as a man worthy of the confidence and respect of the community. He was elected on the Republican ticket to various township and school offices, and his record shows that he never betrayed a trust. He and his wife had a family of eight children, of whom three died in infancy. Of the others we record that Mary E. is the wife of Rev. F. C. Steffler, pastor of the German Methodist Episcopal church at Alden, Iowa; Anna Katherine, wife of August Bartz, a farmer, resides near Rockford, Iowa; Henry, the next in order of birth, is the subject of this review; Peter, is engaged in farming near Plymouth, Iowa, and William M., is a resident of this county.

Henry Krug was reared in Cerro Gordo county and has spent his whole life here, engaged in farming and stock raising. He married, in 1884, Miss Anna Keidle, a native of Colesburg, Clayton county, Iowa, born in 1863, daughter of John Keidle, mention of whom is made elsewhere in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Krug have two daughters, Edith A. and Myrtle M., both employed as teachers in the Rock Falls schools, the former as principal and the latter in charge of the primary department. Miss Edith is a graduate of the Mason City high school, and Miss Myrtle of Memorial University, Mason City, Iowa. Mr. Krug is a member of the M. B. A., the M. W. A. and the Royal Neighbors, and of the last named his wife and daughters also are members. All belong to the Methodist Episcopal church.

JOHN PEDELTY.

Having accomplished a satisfactory work as an agriculturist, acquiring a competency, John Pedelty is now living retired at Mason City, enjoying to the utmost the well merited reward of his long continued, unremitting days of toil. A native of England, his birth occurred February 14, 1841, in Durham, where the first four years of his life were spent.

Peter Pedelty, his father, was born, reared and married in

England, where he followed mining for many years. Embarking with his family on a sailing vessel in 1843, he landed in New Orleans after a stormy voyage of sixteen weeks. Proceeding immediately to Lafayette county, Wisconsin, he was for ten years engaged in mining at New Diggings. The mine giving out, he removed to Platteville, Grant county, Wisconsin, where he began his career as a tiller of the soil. At the end of thirteen years he returned to Lafayette county and was there a resident until 1882. Retiring then from active labor he came to Mason City, Iowa, and here lived in comfort until his death, February 21, 1904, at the venerable age of ninety-two years. His wife, whose maiden name was Mary Alderson, died in 1892, aged seventy-three years. They were the parents of nine children, of whom six are living, as follows: Simon; John; Joseph; Mrs. Agnes Williams; Elizabeth, wife of David Bryson; and Dinah, wife of David Cook. All of these children are residents of Mason City.

Brought up in Wisconsin, John Pedelty had but meager educational advantages, much of his time as a boy and youth having been spent in the mines and farming. After his marriage he began farming in Wisconsin, and met with considerable success. Having purchased one hundred and sixty acres of wild land in Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, in 1868, Mr. Pedelty came here with his family in the spring of 1870. Locating on his land in Lime Creek township, he erected a four-room cottage, and on the homestead which he improved was engaged in tilling the soil until 1895, in the meantime having added to his original purchase until his farm contained four hundred acres of rich and fertile land. Removing then to Mason township, he bought one hundred and sixty acres of land, and there continued his independent calling for three years, when, in 1898, he came to Mason City, where he has since lived retired from active labor, devoting his attention to the care of his private interests. Mr. Pedelty has been very fortunate in his investments, and has bought and sold considerable land in the north and northwest.

On February 14, 1866, Mr. Pedelty was united in marriage with Julia Gillette, who was born in Wisconsin, September 18, 1846, and into their household nine children have been born, namely: Edward, of Cherokee, Iowa; Bert, of Minnesota; Hattie, who married George Tarnish and died at thirty-four years of age; Alva, of Mason City; John, of Lime Creek township; Nettie, wife of Elmer Edmundson, of Great Falls, Montana; Eva, living at home; Ella, wife of Arthur Knopp, of Watertown, South Dakota; and one who died in infancy. Politically Mr. Pedelty is an adherent

of the Democratic party, and has served a number of terms as trustee of Lime Creek township. Both Mr. and Mrs. Pedelty were reared in the Methodist Episcopal church, but are not members. Mr. Pedelty is a self-made man and came to this community quite poor in purse.

SAMUEL O. SMITH.

Among the most prominent and substantial of Ventura's citizens is Samuel O. Smith, manufacturer of cement block and concrete, with plant at Ventura, and also a building contractor. Mr. Smith, who has proved his quality as a captain of industry, is a man of good education and possesses no small literary ability. He was born in Manchester, England, March 26, 1830, and is the son of Luke Smith, a cotton manufacturer. He took up his father's business and at one time employed three hundred people. Business, however, suffered serious depression during the Franco-Prussian war and though he could have continued under a receivership, he refused to do so, thus sacrificing a large property valued at fifty-six thousand pounds sterling. After his failure he went to France, where he taught English and corresponded with the Manchester papers. From Havre he sailed to New Orleans, where he spent a number of years, part of the time acting as time keeper for the levee builders. His next step was to go to Texas and Arkansas, engaging while in these states in the newspaper and grocery business. In 1860 his wanderings took him to Wisconsin, where he remained for a decade, and after another five years spent in Dubuque, Iowa, (his occupation there being that of a market gardener) he sold his farm in Wisconsin and came on to Cerro Gordo county, investing in land in Clear Lake township.

For the past three years Mr. Smith has been engaged in his present manufacturing business. He previously conducted a coal business. He is a considerable property owner, among his holdings being a fine tract of land of two hundred and forty acres in extent in sections 4 and 5, Clear Lake township. He himself managed its operation until 1908, when it was assumed by his son, Walter Smith. Another son, Homer L. Smith, operates a farm of eighty acres in Grant township.

Mr. Smith has been twice married, first to Miss Sarah Colburn, of Dubuque, who died, leaving a daughter Emily; and afterwards to Miss Elizabeth Childs, the two sons previously mentioned being of the latter marriage. Mr. Smith gives his heart and hand to the principles and policies of Republicanism and in token of the

confidence he enjoys in the community has been entrusted with assessorship of Clear Lake township, in which office he has served for fifteen consecutive years, and he has also assisted in school affairs. He was reared in the Church of England.

THOMAS J. PROCTOR.

Thomas J. Proctor is a man well known and esteemed in Union township, where for the past twenty years he has owned and operated a place consisting of one hundred and twenty acres in section 25. Mr. Proctor was born in Dane county, Wisconsin, some twelve miles east of Madison, the date of his birth being February 14, 1857. He is the son of Joseph and Mary Ann (Carney) Proctor, who emigrated from Lancashire, England, to Wisconsin about 1850. A colony of English people came to Wisconsin together, and Mr. Proctor's grandfather Carney bought a farm in Dane county. A part of the relationship removed to Floyd county, Iowa, in 1865, and Mr. Proctor came in company with an uncle.

The father engaged in business in Madison until 1878, when he removed to Cerro Gordo county and purchased a farm, the tract being situated near Rockwell. He was sufficiently pleased with his new location to make it his home for a number of years. Now, at the age of seventy-seven years, he is retired and living in Minneapolis. The mother died March 16, 1908, at the age of sixty-nine. Mr. Proctor is one of a good sized family. A sister and a brother, who lived in Cerro Gordo county in the early '80s are deceased, and he has four sisters surviving; one located in Minneapolis, one in Chicago, one in Mitchell, South Dakota, and one in Great Falls, Montana.

Thomas J. Proctor was reared in Wisconsin and in Iowa and belongs to the goodly company of self-made men. The date of his coming to Cerro Gordo county is 1878, and for five years he rented land in Geneseo township. He started single handed and was handicapped by the possession of very little capital. For several years he was associated with Mr. George W. Britt, breaking land for him to the extent of six hundred and forty acres and renting a tract from him upon which he engaged in farming upon his own account. He purchased his present farm (at that time raw prairie) from Stephen A. Horton of Oswego, New York, who was in the county upon a visit. He has greatly improved it, tiling a portion of it and putting it generally in good shape.

Mr. Proctor laid the foundation of a happy home life about thirty years ago, the lady to become his wife being Miss Sarah

Grandy, of Nora Springs, Floyd county, originally of Winneshiek county. They have had five children, all except the eldest having been born in Cerro Gordo county. John William, aged twenty-three, is at home; George Earl died at the age of seventeen years and eleven months; Gladys Mildred, aged eighteen, is at home, as are also the younger children, Charles A., aged fourteen years, and Ruth A., aged eleven.

Mr. Proctor is a Republican and has served in several township offices, such as director. He and his family attend the Congregational church.

HON. CHARLES L. MARSTON, M. D.

Hon. Charles L. Marston, M. D., has been identified with Mason City, Iowa, since 1893, when he came here from medical college and engaged in the practice of his profession. He is now vice president of the City Park Hospital, of Mason City, and is serving his second term as representative of the Eighty-fourth district in the Iowa state legislature.

Dr. Marston is a native of Illinois. He was born in Winnebago county, that state, February 6, 1870, son of George W. and Sarah (Scott) Marston. George W. Marston, a native of Vermont, left that state in early life and came west to Illinois, visiting Chicago when that now great city was a village. He has been a successful farmer, is now seventy-five years of age, and is still a resident of Winnebago county, living on land his father entered from the government. When the Civil war was inaugurated in the early '60s he was among the first to answer the call. He went to the front as a member of Company C, Fifteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and at the battle of Shiloh received a wound, from the effects of which he has since suffered to the extent that at times he has been partially incapacitated for active work. His wife is still living. Her father, Doctor Scott, was one of the prominent pioneer physicians of Illinois, having moved there from Pennsylvania. During the Civil war he was a surgeon in the army. He died at Rockford, Illinois, at the age of eighty-four years. Doctor Marston is one of a family of six sons and one daughter. From their mother, a woman of unusual refinement and intellectual attainments, they received early training that inclined them toward higher education, and they all worked their way through school. Of them we record that Anson Marston, a graduate of Cornell University, New York, is now dean of the Agricultural College, Ames, Iowa; Amos W., also a graduate of Cornell, has been



Chas L. Manton

assistant United States District Attorney for several years, and is now engaged in the practice of law in Chicago; Walter S., a graduate of the Agricultural College, Ames, Iowa, is draftsman at Chicago for the C. & N. W. Railroad Terminal Company; George E., has charge of the farming operations at the old homestead in Illinois; Robert S., is with his parents; and the daughter, Mrs. Mary Smith, a widow, is a music teacher at Rockford, Illinois.

Dr. Marston passed his boyhood days on his father's farm in Winnebago county, pursued a high school course at Rockford, and prepared himself for his profession at Rush Medical College, where he graduated in the spring of 1893. Immediately after his graduation he came to Mason City, Iowa, where, as already stated, he has since practiced and been prominently identified with the best interests of the town. From 1898 to 1901 he was in partnership with Doctor C. M. Swale, of whom mention is made on other pages of this volume.

On July 15, 1890, Dr. Marston married Miss Harriet E. Scott, of Ogle county, Illinois, who was for several years previous to her marriage engaged in teaching in Winnebago county. They have two children: Evelyn and Dorothy, aged respectively sixteen and twelve years. Mrs. Marston is active in church and social work, being a member of the O. E. S., and the Chautauqua Club and identified with the Baptist church. The Doctor has membership in several fraternal insurance associations, and is a Knight Templar Mason.

EDWARD G. DUNN.

A man of rare ability, wisdom and discernment, Edward G. Dunn is carrying on a substantial business in Mason City as a grain buyer and shipper, but is especially noted throughout northern Iowa as the originator of the Co-operative Farmers' Companies, over three hundred of which he has helped to organize. A son of Michael Dunn, he was born, August 18, 1879, at Nora Springs, Floyd county, Iowa, coming from Irish stock.

Born in Kings county, Ireland, February 2, 1843, Michael Dunn emigrated to the United States soon after attaining his majority, and lived the following five years in North Adams, Massachusetts. Coming from there to Iowa in 1869, he resided for some time in Charles City, but is now engaged in farming in Pleasant Valley township. He married in Charles City, Iowa, Anna Ryan, who was born in Dublin, Ireland, and as a girl of fifteen years came to this country with her parents, settling first in

Detroit, Michigan, afterwards coming to Iowa. Of their nine children seven are now living, namely: Margaret, a school teacher, living at home; Edward G.; Katie; Anna, of Cedar Falls; Martha, also a school teacher; Bernard, of Mason City; and Patricia, a student in the Rockwell Catholic school.

Brought up on the home farm the early life of Edward G. Dunn was quiet and uneventful. He assisted his father during seed time and harvest, in the winter terms of school acquiring an excellent elementary education. He was very clever at his books, and in 1895 was graduated from the Nora Springs Seminary. Turning his attention, then to the study of law, he entered the University of Iowa, but at the end of his junior year, before time for him to be graduated he left the institution to embark in business. Locating at Burchinal, Cerro Gordo county, Mr. Dunn began life for himself as a grain dealer. Finding, however, that the co-operative concerns were discriminated against by the big line companies, he retired from that trade at the end of a year. Since that time Mr. Dunn has devoted his time and energies to the organization of Co-operative Farmers' Companies, a work which has proved of more practical value and benefit to the common people than any ever established in the state. Mr. Dunn is now a grain buyer in Mason City, in this industry being associated with Lloyd, Hoyt & Company, of Chicago, a well known commission firm.

Fraternally Mr. Dunn is a member of Saint Joseph's Court, No. 1051, C. O. F., and of Mason City Council, No. 1006, K. of C. Religiously, true to the faith in which he was reared, he belongs to the Holy Family Catholic church. Politically he is an active and influential member of the Democratic party, and at this time, in 1910, is being strongly urged by the Democratic State Committee to become the Democratic candidate for governor of Iowa. For a person of his age, Mr. Dunn has without any doubt done more for the benefit of the industrial class than any other one man in northern Iowa, and during his work of organization in the various towns and counties has met and become personally acquainted with thousands of people who would gladly and proudly support him should he decide to take the nomination.

FRANK W. CHAMBERS.

One of the most prominent and successful attorneys at Mason City, Iowa, is Frank W. Chambers, formerly a member of the law firm of Clark & Chambers, who were established in business for

several years and dissolved partnership in April, 1907, when J. J. Clark was elected district judge. Since this time Mr. Chambers has been engaged in practice alone and has built up a good clientele. He stands in his profession and has won a reputation for honesty and uprightness of purpose.

Mr. Chambers is a native of Osage, Iowa, born December 12, 1866, son of Rev. W. A. and Sarah M. (Wright) Chambers, both now deceased. Rev. W. A. Chambers was a minister in the Methodist Episcopal church for fifty-three years, having been one of the pioneer preachers in Iowa. He located at Mason City about 1875, having moved west in 1866. He was active in his profession until his death, at Garner, Iowa, in 1890, at the age of seventy-three years. He was a native of New York state, educated at Oberlin College, and adopted the ministry as his life work. His wife was born at Utica, Michigan, where her father had large holdings of land and owned considerable property. Mr. Wright owned a tannery in New York, which he sold and transported the money (in gold) to Michigan for investment. He was a wealthy man for those days. Mrs. Chambers died at Mason City in 1897, at the age of about seventy-one years. Besides Frank W. she and her husband had children as follows: H. J., an attorney of Council Bluffs, Mrs. J. J. Clark, of Mason City, and others who died in infancy.

Frank W. Chambers was educated at Simpson and Cornell Colleges, then became deputy clerk of the court at Council Bluffs, Iowa. He spent two years in the law office of Stanbery & Clark, and was admitted to the bar in 1897, since which time he has been continuously engaged in practice at Mason City. He served as justice of the peace from 1896 until 1906. He has taken an active interest in political affairs and has supported the principles and issues of the Republican party.

Mr. Chambers married, September 10, 1902, Miss Grace E. Edson, of Mason City, daughter of R. P. Edson, superintendent of the Black Hills division of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad. Two children have blessed their union: Margaret R. Chambers and Robert E. Chambers.

Socially Mr. Chambers is a member of the Masonic order, including the Commandery at Mason City and the Shrine at Cedar Rapids. He also belongs to the B. P. O. E., of Mason City, the M. W. A., and M. B. A., and both he and his wife are members of the O. E. S. In religious views he is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and his wife of the Episcopal church. They reside at 324 West Tenth street. Both are popular socially and have many friends.

RICHARD PETHICK.

Cerro Gordo county's population has a good sized English element and among these excellent citizens may be numbered Richard Pethick who was born in Devonshire, England, August 16, 1847. He is also entitled to a place on the roll of self-made men or those who have acquired property and good standing wholly by their own efforts. Mr. Pethick's parents were Charles and Mary (Glandville) Pethick, both natives of England, where they lived until their death. They were the parents of eight children, five of whom are living and two of them residing in America. William, residing in Wisconsin, is the other brother who adopted the land of the stars and stripes for his home.

Mr. Pethick was reared on a farm in his native country and received a little schooling up to the age of twelve years. However, possessed by a wholesome thirst for knowledge he supplemented this with two winters' schooling after coming to America. When a mere lad he started to work, and in April 1868, shortly after the attainment of his majority, he resolved to try his fortunes in the new world. He landed in Canada and remained there until fall, when he came to Wisconsin and worked on farms by the month. He married several years later and farmed for himself on rented places. In 1880 Mr. Pethick came to Cerro Gordo county and purchased eighty acres of land in section 23. He purchased one hundred and sixty acres adjoining and moved to it. He thus owns two hundred and forty acres of fine land, all well improved and in a high state of cultivation, for Mr. Pethick is a scientific agriculturist. Although he devotes his energies principally to general farming he owns Polled Angus cattle. He has given efficient service in school offices and as township clerk and he has always been a stanch Republican.

In December, 1872, Mr. Pethick laid the foundation for a happy home life by his marriage in Wisconsin to Miss Emma Lean, born in the Badger state December 9, 1857. To this union have been born five children, four of whom are living, as follows: Clinton E., at home; Ethel M., wife of Fred Dawson, of Clear Lake township; Bertha E., wife of Fred Wilson, of Mason City, Iowa; and Flessie, who is at home.

WILLARD W. NARAMORE.

As the executive head of the firm of Naramore & Company, which conducts a large and prosperous business in contracting for concrete work of all kinds, Mr. Naramore holds standing as one of the most progressive and substantial business men of Cerro Gordo county, and through his energy, correct methods and fine business ability he has gained precedence in connection with the productive activities of life, and by virtue of his success and his sterling characteristics has become one of the influential citizens of his home city and county, where to him is accorded unreserved popular esteem. He is a native son of Illinois and a scion of one of the highly honored pioneer families of Stephenson county. He was born at Freeport, that county, on the 31st of August, 1854, and is a son of Dr. Willard P. and Lucy A. (Jones) Naramore. Dr. Naramore was one of the most revered and distinguished pioneer physicians of Stephenson county at the time of his death, on the 2nd of February, 1910, at the venerable age of eighty-six years, and he was long one of the most prominent and influential citizens of his section of the great state of Illinois. Dr. Naramore was born at Junius, Seneca county, New York, on the 19th of December, 1824, and was a representative of a family, of English origin, that was founded in New England in the Colonial days. His father was born in Vermont, of English descent, and his mother was of Scotch-Irish lineage. His parents died when he was a boy and he was reared in the home of family friends, whom he accompanied to northern Ohio when a lad of eight years. In the Buckeye state he was reared and educated, and there he completed his training for his chosen profession by a course in the celebrated Sparling Medical College, in Columbus, the capital of the state. He located in Stephenson county, Illinois, in 1846, and there he continued in the active practice of his profession for more than half a century, within which he accumulated a comfortable fortune. He was long identified with banking interests in his home county, where he was also the owner of a valuable farm of more than two hundred acres. From 1865 until his death he resided in the village of Lena, that county, and no citizen held a more secure place in popular confidence and regard. He was a strong supporter of the Union during the Civil war, and served on the board of medical examiners of the state of Illinois in the work of examining volunteers. He was president of the Old Settlers' Association of his county for a quarter of a century, was a member of the state constitutional convention of 1861-2, served as a member of the state

legislature and held other offices of public trust. He united with the Republican party at the time of its organization and was ever afterward a stanch supporter of its cause as a citizen of great intellectuality and marked loyalty and public spirit. His religious faith was that of the Christian church, of which both his first and second wives also were devout members. His first wife, the mother of the subject of this review, passed to the life eternal in 1858, and is survived by two sons, John, a resident of Wichita, Kansas, and Willard W., whose name initiates this article. In 1859 Dr. Naramore married Miss Mary Bower, who died in 1895, and of their children three are living, Milton, who is a resident of the city of Chicago; Martha, who remains at the old home in Lena, Illinois; and George, who is the owner of a large ranch in North Dakota.

Willard Watson Naramore was reared to maturity in Stephenson county, Illinois, and after completing the curriculum of the public schools he was a student in Eureka College, at Eureka, that state, for two winter terms. He had the ambition, self reliance and integrity of purpose that ever foster definite success, and he has reached the goal of independence and prosperity through his own efforts. He took up his residence in Mason City, Iowa, in the autumn of 1886, and for several years thereafter he was employed as a traveling commercial salesman. He then engaged in his present line of enterprise, in which he has built up a large and prosperous business, and he had in this connection the distinction of laying the first cement walk in his home city, about the year 1889. Mason City is now splendidly equipped with the best grade of cement walks and much of the work in this line has been done by the firm of which Mr. Naramore is the head. The concern also does architectural concrete work of the best modern standard and it has secured and carried to successful completion many large and important contracts in this section of the state.

Mr. Naramore stands as a type of the most loyal and progressive citizenship and he has given his influence and co-operation in the promotion and upholding of all measures and enterprises tending to advance the civic and material welfare of the community. He accords an unswerving allegiance to the cause of the Republican party and has been called upon to serve in various offices of public trust. He was city assessor of Mason City for four years, was a member of the board of county supervisors in 1907-8 and was its president in the latter year, and he takes a deep interest in all that tends to advance the commercial, industrial and social advancement of his home city and county. He is affiliated with the local organizations of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the

Modern Brotherhood of America, the Mystic Toilers, and was formerly an active member of the Knights of Pythias. He is held in unqualified esteem in the city that has been his home for nearly a quarter of a century and his status in the community is such as to well justify his representation in this historical work.

In the city of Freeport, Illinois, on the 3rd of January, 1877, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Naramore to Miss Delilah Sherman, who was born and reared in that city and who is a daughter of William and Rebecca Sherman, the former of whom died when Mrs. Naramore was an infant. The devoted mother reared her children with all of care and solicitude and she passed the closing years of her life in the home of the subject of this review, in Mason City, where she died in 1902, at the venerable age of seventy-eight years. In conclusion is entered a brief record concerning the three children of Mr. and Mrs. Naramore: Hal S., was graduated in the celebrated Rush Medical College in the city of Chicago as a member of the class of 1904 and he is now engaged in the practice of his profession at Tenino, Thurston county, Washington, where he is also serving as local surgeon for one of the principal railway companies in that state; Floyd A., who was graduated with high honors in the engineering department of the University of Wisconsin, in the city of Madison, and also in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in the city of Boston, had charge of the manual training department of the public schools of Mason City for two years, within which he brought the same to a high standard of efficiency, and he now resides in Portland, Oregon, where he is engaged in the practice of his profession, being also consulting engineer for the Northern Construction Company, of Portland, Oregon; Harriet A., is the wife of George Orlo Gould, a representative business man of Mason City.

WALTER V. CRAPSER.

One of Cerro Gordo county's substantial and well known farmers is Walter V. Crapser, whose fertile acres are located in Pleasant Valley township. He was born in Franklin county, Iowa, December 4, 1863, and is the son of Albert and Adaline Crapser. The former, a native of New York, died in 1905, at the age of seventy-three years, and the mother is now living in Thornton. They came to Iowa from the east and located in Franklin county in 1874, later removing to Grimes township, Cerro Gordo county.

Walter V. Crapser was reared upon his father's farm and learned in the school of practical experience those many lessons

which have made of him a most successful agriculturist. He attended the common school and when nineteen years of age began to teach school, acting for seven terms as a pedagogue in Pleasant Valley township. After his marriage in 1886 he began farming on rented land. Two years later he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of his present farm. This had only a shack of a house upon it and only fifteen acres of it was broken ground. He now owns and operates three hundred and sixty acres, all finely improved.

Mr. Crapser subscribes to the men and measures of the Republican party and has played a prominent part in the affairs of the county. He has served as road superintendent and was assessor for six years. He was eight years a member of the school board and seven years a member of the county board of supervisors. He was appointed to the latter capacity in April, 1910, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Superintendent J. H. Brown. He assisted in the organization and was a director of the first Farmers' Co-operative Society in the state of Iowa, located at Swaledale. He is now, and has been for four years, president of the Farmers' Co-operative Society of Thornton. The social side of Mr. Crapser's nature is not undeveloped, and he has several fraternal affiliations, being a member of the Elks at Mason City; of the I. O. O. F. at Thornton and of the M. W. A. at Swaledale. This is one means by which he has become widely known in the county.

Mr. Crapser was married, March 23, 1886, to Miss Kate I. Updike, born in Fayette county July 8, 1868. They are the parents of three children, Guy, Gladys and Grace; all of whom are at home.

RUSSELL J. HEMPHILL, M. D.

Russell J. Hemphill, M. D., for eighteen years has been the only physician and surgeon at Plymouth, Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, and his successful practice here has endeared him to the people of the little town and surrounding country.

Dr. Hemphill is of Irish descent. His great-grandfather Hemphill was born on the "Emerald Isle," came to America in early life, and for some years made his home in Ohio. About the year 1834 or 1835, when D. C., the Doctor's father, was four years of age, the family moved from Ohio to Will county, Illinois. In the latter place D. C. Hemphill was reared and passed his life as a farmer, and he died there in 1902, at the age of seventy-two years. He and his wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal



W. E. Long M.D.

church, and reared their family in that faith. Before her marriage she was Miss Hannah Russell, and had come with her family from her native state, New York, to Illinois, their settlement being in Will county, where she was married, and where she died in 1883, at the age of forty-eight years. Of their six sons and three daughters all are living except one son. Two of the sons, Dr. Wilber J., a dentist, and B. C., engaged in a grain and coal business, are residents of Dexter, Iowa. Charles I., is a farmer of Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, and F. W., of Joliet Illinois, is employed in the mail service. Two of the daughters are married, Mrs. Burgess Carr and Mrs. Jennings, the latter being a resident of Marshall, Minnesota. Miss Kittie E. Hemphill lives with her sister, Mrs. Carr.

Russell J. Hemphill, the subject of this sketch, was born in Will county, Illinois, February 26, 1862, and was reared in his native county, receiving his early education there. He pursued his medical studies at the Northwestern Medical College, Chicago, where he graduated with the class of 1892, and immediately following his graduation he came to Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, and opened an office at Plymouth, where he has since conducted a successful practice. His comfortable and attractive home here was built in 1905, at a cost of four thousand dollars and he has recently, in 1910, erected on Main street the concrete office building which he occupies. He has membership in the Cerro Gordo County, Iowa State and American Medical Associations.

Dr. Hemphill married, in Will county, Illinois, Miss Helen Corbin, and to them have been given four children, all born in Cerro Gordo county: Corbin Russell, Irma, Arthur and Arnold.

Like his parents before him, Dr. Hemphill is a Methodist. He is fraternally identified with the I. O. O. F., Oak Lodge, No. 168, of Plymouth, and also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and Brotherhood of American Yeomen. Mrs. Hemphill belongs to the Rebekahs and the Royal Neighbors.

WILLIAM E. LONG, M. D.

William E. Long, M. D., Mason City, Iowa, dates his birth at Akron, Ohio, August 29, 1870. When a child of two years he was brought to Iowa by his parents, J. J. and Elizabeth (Klinefelter) Long, their settlement being at Mason City, where his father became a prominent and influential citizen, figuring in both political and business circles. He was elected to the office of county auditor, was twice re-elected to succeed himself, and served in all six years as auditor of Cerro Gordo county. Afterward he was largely in-

tered in the Mason City Lime & Cement Company, of which for years he was secretary, and he devoted active attention to business up to the time of his death, on May 30, 1907, at the age of sixty-two years. His widow is still a resident of Mason City. Of their six children, Jesse D., is a merchant of Boulder, Colorado; Gertrude, is engaged in business at Cheyenne, Wyoming; Ruth, is employed as a teacher in the schools of Marshalltown; Sidney, is chief civil engineer on the Ashland division of the C. & N. W. Railroad with headquarters at Antigo, Wisconsin; Sylvester, is a cartoonist and engraver of Chicago.

William E., the subject of this sketch, was reared from his second year at Mason City. He spent two years at Ames, and he graduated at the I. S. N. S. (now the State Teachers' College), Cedar Falls. He spent two years as principal of the schools at Marble Rock, Iowa, after teaching four years in the country schools. In the mean time, having decided to enter the medical profession, he occupied his leisure time with studies leading up to that end, and at the close of his second year at Marble Rock he went to Chicago and matriculated at the College of Physicians and Surgeons. Following his graduation at that institution, in 1899, Dr. Long returned to Iowa and opened an office at Rockford, where he practiced medicine until 1904, when he moved back to his old home, and has since conducted a successful practice here. The Doctor is a director of and a stockholder in the Iowa State Bank of Mason City, and has land interests in Canada, Minnesota and Nebraska in addition to his interest in Mason City, all of which represent his own earnings. He is the present nominee on the Republican ticket for the office of coroner of Cerro Gordo county, and will undoubtedly be elected. He is a member of the County, State and American Medical Societies, and is identified with various fraternal organizations of Mason City, including the K. of P., and the F. and A. M. In the last named he has reached the Knight Templar degree. Mrs. Long is a member of the O. E. S., and the family worship at the Congregational church.

Dr. Long married, at Rockford, Iowa, Miss Susie Lyon, a daughter of one of Rockford's pioneers. They have two children, Eleanor and Draper.

GEORGE HELM.

George Helm, a substantial and influential farmer of section 3, Falls township, Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, was born in LaFayette county, Wisconsin, November 25, 1843, son of Jonathan

and Sarah (Shay) Helm. The boyhood of George Helm was spent on a farm and he worked at farm work summers, attending school in the winter. In 1868 he went to Illinois and spent the summer, returning to his native state in the fall, for a brief visit, then went back to Iowa and purchased wild land where he now lives. He erected buildings and made all possible improvements, developing a fine farm in time. His first buildings were destroyed by a severe wind storm in July, 1882, and when he rebuilt he put up better ones. In March, 1867, he married Lueretia Lewis, a native of Coles county, Illinois, who died in April, 1885, having had two children: Lewis C., of St. Paul, and Lillian E., wife of Clarence Cleveland, of South Dakota.

Mr. Helm married for his second wife, March 1, 1886, Amelia Cleveland, who was born in Plymouth, Iowa, November 1, 1865, daughter of George and Melissa (Redington) Cleveland. Mr. Cleveland who was born in Albany, New York, February 19, 1834, died August 7, 1879, and his wife, who was born in Illinois January 14, 1848, is now living at Plymouth, Iowa. By his second marriage Mr. Helm has children as follows: Clarence A., born March 1, 1887, is conducting the home farm; George F., born September 1, 1888, lives in this county; and Gladys I., born June 3, 1893, is at home.

For the past three years Mr. Helm has been an invalid and confined to his bed. He had previously been a very active man, ambitious to bring his property to a fine condition and taking great interest in the affairs of the community. Politically he is a Democrat, and he has served as director and president of the school board and as road superintendent. He and his wife are members of the Brotherhood of American Yeomen, Homestead No. 279, of Plymouth, and so are their children. He owns one hundred and sixty acres of fertile land, and has modern equipment and appliances for carrying on his work. He has always displayed excellent judgment in the conduct of his affairs and has been successful in his operations.

WILLIAM R. MICKEY.

William R. Mickey, of the firm of W. R. Mickey & Company, dealers in drugs, sundries and wall paper, Mason City, Iowa, is one of the leading business men of the town. He is a native of Vinton, Benton county, Iowa, and was born May 17, 1868, son of John and Jane (Thompson) Mickey, natives of Allegheny City, Pennsylvania. Some time in the '50s the Micky's left the Key-

stone state and came west to Iowa, settling in Benton county, where John Mickey spent the rest of his life. By trade he was a stone mason, and he assisted in the construction of many of the buildings of Benton county, including the College for the Blind and the city schools of Vinton. During the Civil war he was a member of Company A, Twenty-eighth Iowa Volunteer Infantry. He died in December, 1890, at the age of fifty years, at Vinton, leaving his widow and their only child, the subject of this sketch. Mrs. Mickey resides with her son in Mason City.

William R. Mickey passed his boyhood and youth at Vinton, where he graduated in the high school in the spring of 1887. The following winter he attended Elliott's Business College at Burlington, Iowa, where he took a course in bookkeeping, after which he was variously employed. In 1890 he went to Colorado with a surveying party on the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad, and was employed in work on that road for one year. Then he came back to Iowa and settled at Mason City. His first position here was assistant cashier in the Commercial Savings Bank. Later he entered into a partnership with M. O. Waterbury, under the firm name of Waterbury & Mickey, and engaged in the drug business, which they continued under that style until 1905, when the name was changed to W. R. Mickey & Company.

After coming to Mason City Mr. Mickey married here Miss Jennie E. Lewis, who was for three years a teacher in the city schools. She was born near Rockwell, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Mickey have two children: Martha Marie, born February 13, 1907, and Marion Gene, November 10, 1909.

Fraternally Mr. Mickey is both a Knight of Pythias and a Mason. In the Masonic Order he has taken the Commandery and Shrine degrees, and is a candidate for the degrees of the Consistory.

F. J. HANLON.

F. J. Hanlon, secretary and general manager of the Mason City & Clear Lake Railway Company, Mason City, Iowa, has as an officer been identified with this road from its inception in 1897.

Mr. Hanlon is a native of Wells, Minnesota, where he was born in 1876, and is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hanlon. The Hanlon family left Minnesota and came to Iowa in 1890, taking up their residence in Mason City, where they now reside. For many years Thomas Hanlon was an engineer on the C. M. & St. P. Railroad, but is now retired from active life. In Mason City F. J. Hanlon completed his schooling, graduated here in 1892. He

began life as an employe in the transportation department of the Mason City & Ft. Dodge Railroad, and was occupied in that capacity until 1894, when he accepted a position, at Marshalltown, as chief clerk in the superintendent's office, Iowa Central Railroad. There he remained until 1897, when he was made an officer of the Mason City & Clear Lake Railway Company.

Mr. Hanlon's standing among the foremost business men of his town is evidenced by the fact that in February, 1910, he was elected president of the Mason City Commercial Club. Politically he is a Republican; fraternally, a B. P. O. E., a K. of C., and a M. W. A., all of Mason City. He and his parents are members of the Holy Family Catholic church.

LEE R. BAILEY.

Devoted to the demands of his business and possessing the ability to meet its every requirement, Lee R. Bailey is prominently associated with the advancement of the mercantile interests of Mason City, as president and treasurer of the Bailey Hardware Company being officially connected with one of the foremost business organizations of Cerro Gordo county. A son of the late James A. Bailey, he was born, February 16, 1868, in Davis county, Missouri, on a farm.

A native of Springfield, Illinois, James A. Bailey was born in that city in 1833, and five years later was taken by his parents to Green county, Wisconsin, where he grew to man's estate. During the Civil war he offered his services to his country, enlisting in the Thirty-eighth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry and taking part in many engagements. After taking upon himself the cares of a married man he moved to Davis county, Missouri, where he tilled the soil a few years. Subsequently migrating to Kansas, he took up a homestead claim, and on the farm which he redeemed from the raw prairie he spent his remaining years, dying August 7, 1887. He married Caroline Bush, who was born in LaFayette, Indiana, in 1835, and is now living in Ipswich, South Dakota. Of the five children born of their union four survive, namely: Mrs. Anna Tuttle, of Hamlin, Brown county, Kansas; Arthur L., of Jewell, Kansas; Lee R.; and Olive, wife of Ellsworth Balch, of Ipswich, South Dakota.

Brought up on the parental homestead in Kansas, Lee R. Bailey received a practical common school education, and as a youth learned the art of telegraphy. Starting out for himself in 1888, ere attaining his majority, he accepted a position as telegraph

operator on the Missouri Pacific Railroad, afterwards holding similar positions on the Iowa Central, the Northern Pacific and the Milwaukee railways. In 1893, while in the employ of the Iowa Central Railroad Company, Mr. Bailey came to Mason City, Cerro Gordo county, as an operator, and continued with the company in different capacities for nine years, at the time of his resignation, in the spring of 1902, being connected with the traffic department of the passenger and freight division, with office in Mason City.

In August, 1902, making a radical change in his occupation, Mr. Bailey, in partnership with Mr. Raymond, bought out the Knopp Hardware Company and continued in business as junior member of the firm of Raymond & Bailey for two years. Mr. Raymond withdrawing from the firm in September, 1904, a stock company was formed and it was incorporated as the Bailey-Downing Hardware Company. Mr. Downing died in 1906, and his share in the business was sold out, and since that time Mr. Bailey has been president and treasurer of the company, whose name was changed in July, 1909, to the Bailey Hardware Company.

On October 10, 1900, Mr. Bailey was united in marriage with Fannie B. Harding, who was born in Chautauqua county, New York, October 29, 1870. Her father, George H. Harding was a carpenter by trade, and also a bridge builder. In 1874 he located in Mason City, where he followed railroad carpentry and bridge building for many years, but is now living retired from active pursuits. He married first Cynthia Brightman, the mother of Mrs. Bailey, and after her death, which occurred in 1873, he married for his second wife her sister, Anna Brightman. Mr. and Mrs. Bailey have no children.

Politically Mr. Bailey is a sound Republican. Fraternally he belongs to Benevolence Lodge, No. 145, A. F. and A. M.; to Benevolence Chapter, No. 46, R. A. M.; to Antioch Commandery, No. 43, K. T.; and to Mason City Lodge, No. 375, B. P. O. E. Religiously Mrs. Bailey is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

JOSEPH W. ADAMS.

Conspicuous among the leading citizens of Mason City is Joseph W. Adams, vice president of the Commercial Savings Bank, actively identified with various enterprises, and is prominent in business, social and fraternal circles. A native of Illinois, he was born, November 8, 1862, in Rock Island county. His father, the late E. W. Adams, was born in Kentucky about 1825, and there

grew to man's estate. In 1842 he migrated to Rock Island county, Illinois, and there spent his remaining years on the farm which he improved, dying in Hampton, Illinois, in 1888, aged sixty-three years. He married Ann D. Willis, who was born, July 26, 1829, in Maryland, and is now a resident of Rock Island, Illinois. Of the five children born of their union four are living, as follows: Clara, widow of George B. Holland, of Rock Island, Illinois; Joseph W.; Myra, wife of R. S. Silvis, of Rock Island; and Harry B., of Wapato, Washington.

Brought up on the home farm, Joseph W. Adams attended the common schools throughout his boyhood and youth, studying with diligence. In 1880 he began working in a drug store, and finding the employment congenial determined to fit himself for a druggist. Going, therefore, to Chicago, Illinois, in 1881, he entered the Chicago School of Pharmacy, from which he was graduated in 1884. In December, 1885, Mr. Adams accepted a position with Winter & Cushing, druggists in Princeton, Illinois, with whom he remained until September, 1887, acquiring a practical knowledge of the business. Coming from there to Mason City, Iowa, he embarked in the drug business on his own account, being junior member of the firm of Atkinson & Adams, which existed until March 1, 1896, when Mr. Adams bought out his partner. In May, 1902 having conducted the business alone for six years, he sold out his interests in the establishment and became assistant cashier in the Commercial Savings Bank. He proved himself eminently capable and trustworthy in that capacity, and was made vice president of this institution in 1903 and has since filled the position most satisfactorily. He is also officially connected with other important industrial enterprises of this city, being treasurer of the North Iowa Brick and Tile Company, of which he was one of the organizers; and secretary and treasurer of the Commercial Bank Block Company.

On May 26, 1886, Mr. Adams married Alice S. Vincent, who was born, August 13, 1865, in Hampton, Illinois, being one of the six children of Dr. George I. and Mary (Thomas) Vincent. Her father, who located in Rock Island county, Illinois, about 1854, as a pioneer physician, was born and bred in Vermont, and died, in 1889, in Illinois, while her mother, now residing at Rock Island, was a native of Massachusetts. Mr. and Mrs. Adams are the parents of two children, namely: Joseph W., attending Harvard University; and Stella B.

Fraternally Mr. Adams is a member of Benevolence Lodge, No. 145, A. F. and A. M.; of Cerro Gordo Lodge, No. 70, K. of P.;

of Mason City Lodge, No. 375, B. P. O. E.; of Midland Lodge, No. 226, M. B. A.; and both he and his wife are members of Unity Chapter, No. 58, O. E. S. Mrs. Adams is a most estimable woman and a conscientious member of the Congregational church. Politically Mr. Adams is a Democrat, but has never been an aspirant for official favors.

PHILIP H. KEHM.

Philip H. Kehm, who is engaged in the real estate and insurance business at Mason City, Iowa, has offices in the City National Bank building, and resides with his family at 303 Jackson street. As a representative business man of the town, a sketch of his life is of interest in this work, and is as follows:

Philip H. Kehm was born in Chickasaw county, Iowa, in 1867, son of Christ and Hedrick (Hoekspeier) Kehm, natives of Hessen-Darmstadt, Germany, who came to this country in early life and were among the pioneers of Chickasaw county. They had little capital to begin with, but they were industrious and economical, and they worked their way to success. When Philip H. was seven years old they moved to Cerro Gordo county and settled on a farm in Portland township, four miles east of Mason City, where the father carried on farming and stock raising extensively, and where he died in 1882, at the age of forty-eight years. The mother, now seventy-four years of age, is a resident of Mason City. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, though formerly they were for years indentified with the Evangelical church. In their family of eight children one died in infancy and the others are scattered, two being in Lyon county, Iowa, one in South Dakota, and the others in Cerro Gordo county.

From his seventh year Philip H. Kehm was reared in the county in which he now lives. At the age of twenty he began learning the harness maker's trade, and for twelve and a half years, until the summer of 1902, conducted a harness shop at Mason City. Since that time he has been successfully engaged in a real estate and insurance business, representing the Des Moines Fire and the Dubuque Fire and Marine Insurance Companies.

Mr. Kehm is married, and he and his wife are the parents of four children: Edna, born April 19, 1891; Florence, January 1, 1894; Earl, September 3, 1896; and Lloyd, July 7, 1901. Mrs. Kehm, formerly Miss Lizzie Young, is a daughter of John Young, late of Charles City, Iowa, where he was for years engaged in the nursery business.

Politically Mr. Kehm is a Republican; fraternally is affiliated with the M. B. A. and the M. W. A., Mrs. Kehm also belonging to the former; and the family are identified with the Methodist Episcopal church.

DANIEL CAHALAN.

The substantial and well-to-do citizens of Mason City have no more worthy representative than Daniel Cahalan, a retired farmer who was for many years actively engaged in agricultural pursuits in Cerro Gordo county, in the prosecution of his independent calling meeting with far more than average success. A son of the late James Cahalan, he was born, September 29, 1840, in county Kerry, Ireland, and there spent his childhood days.

Born and reared on the Emerald Isle, James Cahalan, whose birth occurred in February, 1808, remained in the old country until 1847. Wishing then to prove for himself the truth concerning the wonderful advantages given the laboring man in America, he bade farewell to his family and after a voyage of eight weeks landed in New York. He spent a brief time in Vermont, from there going to Washington county, New York, where he worked at any honest labor. There, in 1850, he was joined by his wife and children; four years later he removed with his family to Rhode Island, and from there, in 1863, located in Fayette county, Iowa. Buying a tract of raw land, he erected a log cabin, and during the years that followed succeeded in clearing a good farm, on which he resided until his death, at the age of sixty-eight years. His wife, whose maiden name was Sarah Griffin, was born in Ireland in 1816, and died in Fayette county, Iowa, at the age of sixty-nine years. They became the parents of nine children, seven of whom are now living, namely: Daniel, the special subject of this sketch; M. P. H., of Dougherty township; Kate, wife of John Carr, of Minnesota; Margaret, wife of Patrick O'Neal, of Mason City; James H., of Minneapolis, Minnesota; Mary, wife of A. Nelson, of Devil's Lake, Minnesota; and Sarah, wife of Thomas H. Moriarty, of Minnesota.

A sturdy lad of ten years when he came with his mother to the United States, Daniel Cahalan received limited educational advantages in the common schools of Washington county, New York. Beginning the struggle of life for himself in 1866, he bought one hundred acres of grub land in Fayette county, paying down twenty-five dollars in cash, his entire capital. Devoting his energies to the improvement of his property, he met with en-

couraging success from the start, and in course of time bought adjoining land until he had a farm of two hundred and twelve acres. Selling his estate in 1891 for forty-two dollars and fifty cents an acre, Mr. Cahalan came to Cerro Gordo county to invest his money, buying first two hundred and eighty acres of improved land in section thirty-three, Bath township. The land yielding profitable harvests each year, he bought more land from time to time, his farm in 1900 containing five hundred and eighteen acres of rich and fertile land, and being one of the most attractive and desirable in the vicinity. He also owns four hundred acres of valuable land in Minnesota.

Retiring from active labor in that year, Mr. Cahalan located at Rockwell, Cerro Gordo county, where he resided seven years, being one of the most active and prominent citizens of the place. Since 1907 he has been a resident of Mason City, and has here gained an assured position among the highly esteemed and respected citizens.

Public spirited and energetic, Mr. Cahalan has never shirked the responsibilities of public office, but while a resident of Fayette county was township assessor twelve years and township trustee a number of terms. He likewise served as trustee of Bath township, in Cerro Gordo county, and was township clerk four years. He was subsequently elected mayor of Rockwell, a position that he resigned on coming to Mason City. While living in Rockwell he was vice president of the Farmers' Co-operative Company, and has since assisted in the organization of a dozen such companies in different parts of the county. Mr. Cahalan and his family are consistent members of Saint Joseph's Catholic church.

On February 5, 1868, Mr. Cahalan married in Clayton county, Iowa, Mary Ann Phelan, who was born in May, 1849, in Clayton county, Iowa, where her parents, John and Mary (Delaheney) Phelan, settled on coming to this country from Ireland in the early forties. Twelve children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Cahalan, nine of whom are living, namely: James P., of Bath township; Daniel Jr., of Dougherty township; Anna, wife of Thomas Fleming, of Cartersville, Iowa; Patrick F., of Blooming Prairie, Minnesota; Nellie; Theresa; May; Thomas H.; and George W.

JAY L. STEVENS.

Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, includes among its enterprising and prosperous farmers, Jay L. Stevens, whose fine farm of two hundred and eighteen acres on section 18, Falls township, is one of the best improved ones in the locality.

Mr. Stevens was born in Blue Earth county, Minnesota, near the town of Mankato, in October, 1866, son of T. G. and Eliza (Lathrop) Stevens. T. G. Stevens, a native of Ohio, left that state about 1861 and made settlement in Minnesota, where he was variously occupied, giving no little time to buying and selling property. About 1863 he made his first visit to Iowa, and at that time purchased the farm now owned by his son, Jay L. He improved this farm, and for several years carried on agricultural pursuits here. Later he moved to Plymouth, where his death occurred in 1885, at the age of sixty-five years. Although being deprived of his sight through an accident which happened when he was a young man, he was successful in his undertakings and maintained an active interest in public affairs, at times serving in local offices, such as member of the school board, etc. He married in Indiana Miss Eliza Lathrop, who as a bride accompanied him to Minnesota. She was born in New York, reared in Indiana, and died in Iowa, her death occurring in 1903, at about the age of seventy years. Of their five children two are in Iowa, the subject of this sketch and his sister Clara, wife of L. Cole of Plymouth, and three are residents of North Dakota, namely: Ella, wife of A. D. Graves, of Tokio; H. E., of Ray, and F. T., of Merricourt.

Jay L. Stevens was reared in the county in which he now lives and received his education in the public schools, and from his boyhood has been occupied in farming and stock raising. For years he has been interested in raising thoroughbred Short-horn cattle and Poland China hogs.

In 1888 Mr. Stevens married Miss Anna Glassel, a native of Wisconsin and a daughter of John Glassel and wife, both natives of Germany. The Glassels came to Iowa in 1885 and took up their residence in Cerro Gordo county, where Mr. Glassel engaged in farming and later in gardening. Now, at the age of eighty-five he is retired, and he and his wife make their home with Mr. and Mrs. Stevens. Mr. and Mrs. Stevens have four children, Ralph, Nellie, Ethel and Lloyd, all at home, the eldest twenty-one years of age and the youngest ten.

Politically Mr. Stevens is a Republican; has served efficiently in local office, and has always been keenly alive to the best interests of the community. For six years he was township assessor, and at this writing he is president of the township school board. He is secretary and manager of the Plymouth Co-operative Creamery Company, and is a director in the Farmers Elevator Company, the Farmers Mutual Insurance Company and the North Iowa Fair Association. Both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

JOHN A. SUTTON.

Among the successful and enterprising business men of Plymouth, Iowa, is John A. Sutton, manager of the Farmer's Co-operative Elevator Company. Mr. Sutton is a native of Cerro Gordo county, born in Falls township July 25, 1872, a son of Benjamin and Clementina (Senion) Sutton. The father was born in Devonshire, England, March 5, 1814, and died in Iowa, February 7, 1899, and the mother, who was born in Yorkshire, England, in 1827, died September 11, 1901. They were parents of four children, John A., being the only survivor. Benjamin Sutton emigrated to the United States in 1839 and for a time worked in the state of New York, then drifted west, on a hunting trip. He made his first visit to Cerro Gordo county in 1853 and hunted all over that region, then returned to Wisconsin, where he had also been hunting, and spent some time in the vicinity of Kenosha. In the spring of 1854 he returned to Cerro Gordo county and entered one hundred and sixty acres of land in Falls township, making the journey on foot to the land office at Des Moines, where he had to go to enter his land. He then went back to Wisconsin, but in the fall of 1855 returned to his land in Iowa and spent the winter hunting, splitting rails and getting out fencing for his one hundred and sixty acres of land. In July, 1856, he sold out and returned to Wisconsin, but in 1857 he started back to Iowa with a drove of cattle, crossing the river at McGregor with one hundred head of stock and selling ten of them. He drove the remainder to Falls township and let them graze during the summer, providing an ample supply of prairie hay for their feed through the winter. He kept his drove of young stock until 1861, then sold it and bought land in section 8, where he developed a fine farm and resided on it until his death. He retained his love of hunting and sport until his death.

The boyhood of John A. Sutton was spent on his father's farm in Falls township and he attended the graded schools of Plymouth. When he was nineteen years of age he began carrying on the home farm, and he remained there until 1905, when he located in Plymouth, and three years later helped organize the company of which he is manager. He is a man of good business judgment and acumen, and the enterprise with which he is connected has already built up a good patronage. He owns the old homestead of three hundred and twenty acres, on which he has put many improvements, and during the time he occupied it he was extensively interested in raising and feeding stock. Both he and

his father always took an active interest in the progress and development of the community. When the father first located in the county there were but two houses at Mason City and two at Rock Falls. John Sutton is a stanch Republican and a representative, public-spirited citizen. His wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

On May 23, 1894, Mr. Sutton married Emma Sutton, who was born in New Jersey, May 1, 1872, a daughter of Lewis and Charlotte (Kirkhuss) Sutton, both living in Lime Creek township. Six children have blessed this union, namely: Benjamin, Levi, Charlotte, Reuben, Ervin and Russell.

N. F. WARD.

N. F. Ward, whose postoffice address is Plymouth, Iowa, R. F. D., and who resides on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 1, Falls township, Cerro Gordo county, came from Nebraska to this state in 1891. He landed in Cerro Gordo county in March, and first settled in Portland township, from whence two years later he moved to his present location, where he has since been engaged in general farming and stock raising.

Mr. Ward was born in Oneida county, New York, August 12, 1850, son of Joel and Mary (Smith) Ward, natives of England and New York state respectively. Early in the '50s the Ward family left New York and came west to Illinois and not long afterward went from there to Wisconsin, where their home was maintained until late in the '80s. Then they came to Iowa, and in Cerro Gordo county the parents spent the closing years of their lives and died. They left the son and three daughters, all of Cerro Gordo county.

His father a farmer, N. F. Ward was reared to farm life, and has continued in this line of work, meeting with success in his operations. He lived in Wisconsin until he was twenty-seven, then went to Butler county, Nebraska, and from Nebraska came to Iowa, as above stated.

In Illinois Mr. Ward married Nancy E. Marsh, a native of Rock county, Wisconsin, and a daughter of Edward and Catherine (Veach) Marsh, natives of the same county in which she was born. She is one of a family of three children. A sister, Mrs. Myra Cook, resides in Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Ward are the parents of three children: Grace, born in Illinois, Cora, in Wisconsin, and Pearl, in Nebraska. Grace is the wife of Joseph Johann, a dealer in grain, live stock and coal at Union Center, Indiana. Cora

is at home and Pearl died on May 22, 1910, at twenty-two years of age.

Politically Mr. Ward has made it a practice to cast his franchise with the Republican party, and at different times has served in local office. Socially, he is identified with the Yeomen and the I. O. O. F. of Plymouth, and Mr. and Mrs. Ward belong to the Rebekahs. The family are all members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. Ward has just recently sold his farm and expects to remove to Plymouth, Iowa, and retire.

PHILIP W. CARMANY.

Philip W. Carmany, mayor of Plymouth, Iowa, was born in Summit county, Ohio, December 18, 1838. His parents, John and Rebecca (Harter) Carmany, natives of Pennsylvania and Ohio, respectively, were married in the latter state, reared their family, passed their lives and died there, the father dying in 1890, at the age of seventy-seven years, the mother, March 2, 1906, at the age of eighty-four. They led the quiet, honest life of farmers, and were worthy members of the Lutheran church. Of their eleven children nine grew to maturity and six are still living and scattered in five states. Mrs. Catherine Powless, a widow, resides in Michigan; Levi, at Massillon, Ohio; Frank, near Akron, Ohio; Mrs. Rohanna Allen, in Nebraska; Mrs. Emma Wertzbaugher, in Idaho; and Philip W. in Plymouth, Iowa.

Philip W. Carmany spent his youth and early manhood on his father's farm in Ohio, and at the age of twenty-four years came west as far as Plainfield, Will county, Illinois. There on the 13th of August, 1862, he enlisted as a member of Company C, One Hundredth Illinois Volunteers. He served with this command until the close of the war, almost three years, when he was mustered out at Nashville, Tennessee, after which he returned to Plainfield, landing there July 11, 1865. The following year he married and settled down to farming in Will county, and made that place his home until 1876, when he moved to Iowa. He purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Lime Creek township, Cerro Gordo county, and established his home on it, and here he lived and carried on agricultural pursuits until 1892, when he removed to Plymouth. Two years later he sold his farm. For three or four years after coming to Plymouth he was engaged in the coal business, but sold that and became a hardware dealer. After conducting a hardware store for eleven years he was succeeded in

business by Charles Sheldon. On March 1, 1909, he was elected mayor of Plymouth, the office he now fills, and aside from the duties of this position he lives retired from active life.

Mrs. Carmany, formerly Miss Tina Deepe, was born at Defiance, Ohio, May 25, 1842, daughter of Henry Deppe. She and Mr. Carmany are the parents of seven children: Arnold, engaged in farming at Rice Lake, Wisconsin, is married and has nine children; John, of Joliet, Illinois, has a wife and four children; Charles, of Chicago, engaged in insurance and mercantile business, has two children; Mary, wife of John Montgomery, resides at Houston, Texas; Jennie and Jesse, at home, the latter in the employ of the Farmer's Telephone Company at Plymouth; and Daisy, wife of W. F. Jacobs, resides at Deer Creek, Minnesota.

Reared by Lutheran parents, Mr. Carmany identified himself with the Lutheran church and is a consistent member of the same.

SILAS G. PARKER.

Silas G. Parker, an enterprising and successful farmer of Lime Creek township, Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, where he owns one hundred and sixty acres of well improved land in section 17, has made all the improvements and erected the buildings on his property. He was born in Lake county, Illinois, December 30, 1852, a son of Levi and Martha C. (Vandermark) Parker. The father was born in Franklin county, Vermont, April 2, 1822, and died May 15, 1907, and the mother, a native of New York, born in 1827, died in August, 1908. They were parents of seven children, of whom five survive, namely: Martha, wife of Edward Brown, of Rolfe, Iowa; Silas; Stephen, of Lime Creek township; Alonzo, of Mason City; John, of Minnesota.

The boyhood of Levi Parker was spent in Vermont and he came west with his parents in 1840. They settled in Lake county, Illinois, where he father purchased government land and placed it under cultivation, living on it until his death. Levi Parker also purchased government land, erected a house and lived in it until 1860, then sold out and moved with a wagon to Cerro Gordo county, where he purchased school land in section 16, Lime Creek township. For the first few years the family lived in a log house. The father retired to live in Mason City in 1897.

Silas G. Parker worked on his father's farm summers and attended the district school winters. After his marriage he engaged in farming in Worth county, Iowa, there renting land for three years. He purchased eighty acres of his present farm in 1876 and

settled on it, improving it as fast as he was able and adding to his possessions as he could. He is industrious and ambitious and has been successful through his own efforts. He is highly esteemed by his fellow citizens and has a multitude of friends. In politics Mr. Parker is a Republican, and he is affiliated with the M. B. A., the Yeomen, the I. O. O. F. and the Rebekahs. Mrs. Parker was also a member of the order of Rebekahs during her lifetime.

On March 17, 1873, Mr. Parker married Frances Guild, who was born in Vermont. She died August 3, 1906, at the age of forty-seven years, having borne two children: Clarence, of Mason City, and Herbert, at home. She was a woman of high character, a loving wife and mother, and had many warm personal friends. Her loss has been felt in many circles, where her place can never be filled.

G. WILLIAM PAGE.

The lumber business of Plymouth, Iowa, is represented by G. William Page, a partner in the L. A. Page Lumber Company and manager of the branch office at Plymouth, the main office of the company being at Mason City, Iowa.

G. William Page was born near Stoughton, Wisconsin, in 1855, son of Benjamin and Clarinda (Brown) Page. His parents, natives of Vermont, left the "Green Mountain State" about 1850 and came west as far as Wisconsin, bringing with them their four little children. They settled on a farm near Stoughton, and there reared their family, five more children having been born to them after their removal to Wisconsin. Their eldest son, Benjamin, died in 1875, at the age of thirty years. Of the others we record that L. A. is president of the L. A. Page Lumber Company, with headquarters at Mason City, Iowa; N. L., of Auburn, Maine, conducts a lumber and box factory; Annette, wife of John Douglass, is a resident of Portland, Oregon; Edgar E. is a farmer and stock dealer of Stoughton, Wisconsin; George William is the subject of this review; Frank owns and operates the old farm in Wisconsin; Ida, wife of James Pratt, lives at Edgerton, Wisconsin; and Miss Stella, the youngest, is a resident of Stoughton.

George William Page was reared on his father's farm, and in his youth had good educational advantages. As a young man, in 1878, he came to Plymouth, Iowa, and became interested in the lumber business with his brother, L. A., and since 1880 has had entire charge of the business at this point. Also he deals in coal and fuel.

In Wisconsin Mr. Page married Miss Charity Ayers, who was born and reared near Stoughton, and they have two daughters: Ethel, wife of Clint E. Cooper, of Plymouth, and Alice, attending Fayette College, Fayette, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Cooper have one child, Lenore.

Politically Mr. Page is a Republican, and while he has never been a politician he has always taken an interest in local affairs and has served in township offices. Both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

MATT OLSON.

Matt Olson, of the firm of Olson, Eruston Company, Clear Lake, Iowa, is one of the representative business men of this city. He came here in 1894 from Hancock county, Iowa, and engaged in the general merchandise business under the name of M. Olson & Company, which he continued until shortly previous to the organization of the present firm, in March, 1903, to succeed Bly & Eruston, which had been in business about two years. The Olson, Eruston Company carries a stock of dry goods, groceries, furnishing goods, etc., valued at from \$20,000 to \$25,000, and employs seven clerks. This is the largest establishment of its kind in Clear Lake.

Mr. Olson was born at Ellington, Iowa, August 6, 1875, son of Martin and Julia (Brager) Olson, early residents of Hancock county, they having settled there in 1870. Martin Olson was a farmer throughout his life. He died in 1901, his wife in 1900, each at about the age of sixty-seven years. Of their children, now grown and scattered, we record that Mrs. Olaf T. Hanson is a resident of Clear Lake, Iowa; Mrs. S. Simonson lives in Ventura, Iowa; Mrs. J. O. Osmundson, in Thompson, Iowa; Mrs. A. W. Halverson, in Jasper, Minnesota; O. M. Olson, who is operating the home farm in Hancock county, and E. M. Olson also a Hancock county farmer. Matt Olson was reared on his father's farm, receiving a good common-school education and, as outlined above, has been engaged in merchandising since he reached manhood.

In 1890 Mr. Olson married Miss Helen Nelson, a native of Cerro Gordo county, and they have one son, Maxwell, attending school in Clear Lake. Mr. and Mrs. Olson are members of the United Lutheran church, and politically he is a Republican.

NELSON J. GRUMMON.

Nelson J. Grummon, a pioneer and retired farmer, is one of those who belong particularly to Iowa by reason of long residence within her borders, having seen the country developed from the raw prairie to its present high state of productiveness. Mr. Grummon was born in western New York, August 7, 1837, his parents being Horace B. and Caroline (Baleom) Grummon. The father was born in New Jersey in 1809 and died near Cherry Valley, Illinois, in 1888. The mother died in her native state, New York, in 1839, when Mr. Grummon was but two years of age, and the father took for his second wife Caroline Barton. In 1841 the little family set out for Rockford, Winnebago county, Illinois, passing through Chicago, which was then a very small town. This was in the winter time and proved a very long, cold trip. They lived near Rockford two or three years and then removed to Boone county, near Belvidere, where the father purchased eighty acres of unbroken prairie. He labored against the usual difficulties of the pioneer, and managed to build a frame house, break the sod, and here continued to live until his death. After the death of the second wife Mr. Grummon's father married a third time, Sarah J. Whitmore being united to him. She survives and resides in Alexander, South Dakota. Nelson J. Grummon was the only child by his father's first marriage. To the second three children were born: Sidney, who died near Cherry Valley; Lurana, who married Cyrus Ewing and died near Cherry Valley; and George, who is now a resident of Belvidere. There was no issue by the third marriage.

Nelson J. Grummon received his early education in the log school house in New York state and in the subscription schools of Boone county, Illinois. This educational opportunity was of a limited character, but Mr. Grummon was naturally a student, and he has since remedied this deficiency by well-advised reading and research, and may now be truly accounted a man of information and culture. He remained under the parental roof until his twenty-second year, when he took unto himself a wife and farmed for two years on rented land in Boone county. On October 29, 1861, he and his wife and daughter started to drive through to Cerro Gordo county and on November 5 of that year they arrived at Geneseo township, locating on eighty acres of wild land which Mr. Grummon had purchased previous to their arrival. He soon after added to the prairie holdings ten acres of timber land. He thus had at hand material for a log house, which was erected and



N. J. Grummon,
Rockwell Iowa,

moved into by March 13, 1862. The snow was at that time three feet deep on a level and as the house was only "chinked" on the south side and the floor laid with common rough boards, it goes without saying that nobody was over-warm. The size of this house was fourteen by sixteen feet. The settlers were few and far between and there were but four families in Linn Grove, which is now known as Rockwell. The prairie was practically uninhabited, the houses being built in the timber along the stream, and from eight to ten miles apart. The wolves were unpleasantly numerous and a few deer were occasionally to be encountered. Wild geese and ducks and prairie chickens were delicacies to be found upon the pioneer's table. What little trading Mr. Crummon did was at the little store in Mason City, kept by A. B. Tuttle. He had brought fifty cents worth of sugar along and this was made to last a long time. There were no tea and coffee. Grain was taken to Cedar Falls, Ackley and Waverly, fifty and fifty-five miles away, and four days were required for the trip. The family went eight or ten miles to covenant meeting, taking along a log chain with which to pull out the wagon when it became stuck in the mud.

After taking up his abode in his new log house Mr. Grummon began to break his ground and put up fences. He also traded a portion of his original farm for the piece upon which his house now stands, this bringing his property to the road. It was sometime in the early '70s that he built his present residence. He has also built numerous barns and out-buildings and set out many trees. He was not afraid of hard work and privation and chopped wood nine hours a day and boarded himself for five shillings a day, thus saving sufficient money to pay his first taxes. He walked twelve miles to Mason City to make the payment. He was very active then as now and he consumed only five hours in making the round trip. He passed only one house on the way. In the spring after the removal of the family into the log house there was a stretch of three weeks when there was nothing to eat except the grain which was ground in the coffee mill. Those were the days of the tallow dipped candle and when there was any coffee molasses and sorghum were used to sweeten it. The mail was received once a week and was carried on foot from Mason City to Iowa Falls, by way of Owens Grove. Nearly all the houses in the locality were built of logs.

Mr. Grummon was married in Boone county, Illinois, October 23, 1859, to Miss Romelia Quackenboss, who had come to the county with her father when a child. She died February 20, 1888, and Mr. Grummon was a second time married, August 5, 1891, the lady

to become his wife being Mrs. Mary M. Sherman. The first union was blessed by the birth of three children: Myrtie, born May 18, 1861, and died December 16, 1882; Charlie, born March 13, 1865, and died in Denver, Colorado, December 29, 1889; and William A., born June 2, 1868, now postmaster at Rockwell, editor of the *Phonograph*, and very active in Republican politics. Nelson J. Grunmon, like his father before him, is a stalwart Republican and takes a keen interest in public events. He has been assessor for six years and several terms trustee. He and his wife have long been connected with the Baptist church, as well as the daughter who died. Mr. Grunmon is the owner of ninety well-improved acres.

WILLIAM E. GILDNER.

Throughout northern Iowa the name of Gildner is synonymous with thrift, enterprise and prosperity, and standing in the front rank among the leading merchants of this part of this commonwealth is the firm of Gildner Brothers, who have mercantile establishments in Cerro Gordo, Floyd, Jones, Delaware, Hancock and Taylor counties. William E. Gildner was born in Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, January 6, 1877. His parents, Henry and Mary (Brunner) Gildner, natives of Canada, were reared and married in the United States. Settling in Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, in 1876, they resided here until 1903, when they located at their present home in Nora Springs. They are the parents of five children, as follows: William E., the subject of this sketch; John H., of Anamosa, Iowa; Edward E., of Manchester, Iowa; Alfred J., of Nora Springs; and Lucy, living at home.

William E. Gildner was brought up on a farm, and after leaving the district school took a commercial course at the Nora Springs Academy. Beginning life for himself in 1897, he became clerk in a clothing store at Nora Springs. At the end of six months, having made himself familiar with the details of the business, he bought a half interest in the establishment, for two years being junior member of the firm of Mitchell & Gildner. In 1902 he purchased his partner's interest in the business, and soon afterward removed to Manchester, Iowa, where he established another clothing store. He has since, in partnership with his brothers, all of them business men of ability, established clothing stores in various places, under the firm name of Gildner Brothers, their stores being located in Nora Springs, Manchester, Anamosa, Mason City, Charles City, Bedford and Garner. Mr. Gildner established his present store at Mason City in 1907, and has here built up an extensive and lucrative trade.

Mr. Gildner is emphatically a self-made man. He started in life with barely a hundred dollars of his own, received but eighteen dollars a month wages as a clerk, and when he purchased a half interest in the Nora Springs store was forced to borrow two thousand dollars. The Mason City store alone carries a stock valued at thirty thousand dollars, while the Gildner stores as a whole represent an investment of one hundred and thirty-five thousand dollars.

Mr. Gildner married, October 6, 1903, Anna Buckman, who was born at Nora Springs, Floyd county, Iowa, April 4, 1878, and they have one child, Eleanor C. Mr. and Mrs. Gildner are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mrs. Gildner belongs to the Rathbone Sisters, and Mr. Gildner is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons, and Knights of Pythias. Politically he is a Republican.

HENRY McNITT.

Henry McNitt is practically retired from active life but still lives on his farm of thirty-five acres in Falls township, Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, which has been his home since 1882, when he came here from Dodge county, Wisconsin. Its good buildings and general appearance of thrift are indicative of the success that has attended his efforts, and here, surrounded by the comforts of life and with the companionship of his family, he is spending his later years.

Mr. McNitt was born in Jefferson county, New York, September 26, 1834, a son of J. W. and Julia (Chamberlain) McNitt, the former a native of New York and the latter of Connecticut. In his veins is a strain of both Scotch and German blood, his great-grandfather having been a Scotchman and his great-grandmother a native of Germany. J. W. McNitt came to Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, in 1881, and died at what is now the home of his son Henry, in August 1885, at the age of seventy-nine years. In his family were six children, of whom only two, Henry and a brother who resides at Plymouth, Iowa, are now living.

In 1847, when Henry was thirteen years of age, the McNitts moved to Wisconsin and settled in Dodge county, where he was reared and attended public school and college, and where he made his home until 1882. On December 31, 1865, in Ohio, he and Miss Jane S. Hallett were united in marriage. She is a native of Ohio, born in Fulton county in 1837, a daughter of James and Betsey Hallett, both natives of New York state. James Hallett died at his home in Ohio in 1903, at the age of ninety-seven years. He

was twice married and was the father of eight children, and of this number four are now living, Mrs. McNitt having two sisters and a brother in Ohio. Her mother died in 1848, when she was eleven years of age. Of the children born to Mr. and Mrs. McNitt, six in number, all natives of Wisconsin, we record that Howard A. died in 1884, at the age of seventeen years and five months; Cora Luella died in Wisconsin in 1874, at the age of three years; Elmer is engaged in farming in Benson county, North Dakota; John operates the home farm; Anna, wife of L. A. Davies, of Armour, South Dakota, has seven children living, Edith, Leo, Merlin, Dorothy, John, Lewis and Orville, and one, Anna May, deceased; Edwin, on the home farm, married Delia Dingmen, and they have three daughters, Dorothy, Ruby and Lucile.

Mr. McNitt has always cast his vote with the Republican party, and at times has filled local office. The only fraternal organization to which he ever belonged was the Good Templars. Both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

WARNER GILDNER.

Warner Gildner, who for twenty-five years has carried on his present farm on section 14, Falls township, Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, was born in upper Canada January 8, 1861. He is a son of Henry and Annie (Moch) Gildner, both born in Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, in September, 1819. The father died July 7, 1896, and the mother in April, 1895. They were married in Germany and in 1846 emigrated to Canada. They were parents of five children, three of whom are living, namely: Henry, of Nora Springs, Iowa; Elizabeth, wife of John Festel, of Nora Springs; and Warner.

In Germany Henry Gildner was a brewer and distiller, but on locating in Canada took up farming, which he continued there until 1866, then moved to Falls township and purchased eighty acres in section 14, then wild land. He improved the land, erected buildings and lived on it until he retired from active life. At the time of his arrival in Canada, after having spent eleven weeks on the trip, he had almost nothing, but died a successful and well-to-do man.

Warner Gildner was a small child when his parents located in Cerro Gordo county, where he grew up and attended district schools. After his marriage he began farming for himself in section 24, on rented land, but in the spring of 1885 he purchased his present farm, which was at that time unimproved. He carried on this place in connection with the farm he rented until December,

1896, then erected a house and settled in it. He has brought about all the improvements and now has a fine farm, with modern equipment and appliances, and the trees it contains were planted by him. He now owns four hundred and twenty acres of land in Falls township, three hundred acres of which he cultivates. He is prominent in local affairs and for fourteen years has held the office of township trustee. He is a member of the Baptist church at Nora Springs and in politics is a Republican. He stands high in the estimation of his fellows and has a large circle of warm personal friends.

On September 27, 1885, Mr. Gildner married Catherine Brunner, a native of Ontario, Canada, born January 30, 1860, daughter of Jacob and Dorothea (Walker) Brunner the father, born in Germany, March 9, 1831, died October 25, 1905, and the mother, also born in Germany, July 7, 1838, is now residing in Los Angeles, California. They were parents of fifteen children, of whom fourteen are now living. Mrs. Brunner was brought to Canada in 1834, when three years of age. His wife was eight years old when she was brought to the United States, and after spending one year in New York they moved to Canada, where she grew up and married. Mr. Brunner followed farming in Canada and in 1872 located in Floyd county, Iowa. In 1889 he retired from active life and located in Marble Rock, Iowa, where he died, and his widow removed to California in 1908.

Three children have been born to Mr. Gildner and his wife, namely: Elmer J., at home; Frank H., of Mason City, and Cleo H., at home.

ALMERON M. AVERY.

Widely known as a prominent and prosperous agriculturist of Portland township, Almeron M. Avery also superintends the management of his father's estate in Mason township, known as "Averydale." He is one of the most extensive farmers and stock raisers of Cerro Gordo county, and is numbered among its citizens of good repute and high standing. A son of Myron K. Avery, he was born June 7, 1868, in Boone county, Illinois.

A Pennsylvanian by birth, Myron K. Avery was born at Tunkhannock, Wyoming county, August 20, 1826. Going with his parents to Boone county, Illinois, in 1838, he there grew to manhood. In 1850, following the lure of the bright and shining metal, he crossed the plains to California, where he dug for gold for fourteen months, using the pick and shovel to little advantage. He

subsequently made some money in ranching and teaming, remaining on the Pacific coast four years in all. Returning to Illinois, where he had previously bought forty acres of land, he continued a resident of Boone county until the spring of 1884, when he moved with his family to Missouri. Two years later he settled in Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, which has since been his home. Buying land in Mason township, he began raising thoroughbred stock, including the better grades of horses, cattle and hogs, and improved one of the finest estates in northern Iowa. He is now living retired from active pursuits in the village of Portland, his estate being well managed by his son Almeron. He married Abigail Tongue, who was born in Cortland county, New York, December 9, 1830, and died at her home in Portland, Cerro Gordo county, December 9, 1898, at sixty-eight years of age.

Living in Boone county, Illinois, until sixteen years of age, Almeron M. Avery obtained his early education in the district schools. Going with the family westward in 1884, he spent two years in Missouri, in 1886 coming with his parents to Cerro Gordo county. He ably assisted his father in the improvement of the land he bought in Mason township, and after a few years bought his present farm in Portland township. Since the retirement of his father from active pursuits, in 1895, Mr. Avery has had the entire charge of both estates, operating altogether two hundred and sixty acres of as rich and productive land as can be found in this part of the state. "Averydale" is a model farm for a stock raiser, being well supplied with pure water from Lime creek and from an overflowing well on the place. Mr. Avery makes a specialty of raising fine stock, an industry in which he has in reality been engaged since he was fifteen years old. At one time he was an extensive breeder of thoroughbred Shire and Pereheron horses, but is now devoting his time to the raising of Duroc-Jersey hogs, handling about one hundred and fifty a year; to breeding Shropshire sheep, keeping about one hundred, and having also a herd of Shorthorn cattle numbering about seventy-five. The farms superintended by Mr. Avery are among the best to be found in their appointments and improvements; the buildings being substantial and commodious, the new barn on the Mason township estate being a fac-simile of the original one, which was destroyed by fire in 1898.

Mr. Avery married, in November, 1890, Gertrude C. Adams, a daughter of J. R. and Mary (Brown) Adams, pioneer residents of Mason City. Her parents are now living in Los Angeles, California, although they retain their home in Mason City. They have three children, Mrs. Avery, and two sons, Arthur and Earl, both

of Mason City, Iowa. Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Avery, namely: Lloyd Everett, Ruth Mary, Russ Clifton, Merrill Kasson, Bertrand Adams and Alice, but the latter lived only four brief years. Politically Mr. Avery is a Prohibitionist. Socially he belongs to the Yeomen of America. Religiously he is a member of the Baptist church.

JOHN F. ORMSBY.

John F. Ormsby, who owns and operates a fine three hundred and twenty acre farm in section 31, Dougherty township, is a man well known in the community in which he resides. He was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, August 22, 1846, and like many of his neighbors he is of Irish extraction, his parents being Thomas and Catherine (Egan) Ormsby, both natives of Erin. The father was born in county Sligo and the mother in county Mayo, both emigrating to this country, where the former died in 1887, at the age of eighty-one years, and the latter in 1855, at the age of thirty-one years. They were the parents of the following seven children: John F.; Mary, wife of Joe Weber, of Mina, Arkansas; Thomas, living in Hancock county, Iowa; Ellen, wife of Michael Carroll of Omaha, Nebraska; Catherine, deceased; Robert, a citizen of Clayton county, Iowa; and Catherine, (single) living in Minneapolis. The father came to America in 1828, the voyage taking six weeks. After working for a time in Vermont he came westward to Cincinnati, where he married. In 1854 he went down the Ohio river and up the Mississippi to Clayton county, Iowa, where he purchased two hundred and forty acres of wild land. Upon this land was an old log school house, sixteen by twenty-four, and this served as a home until a better one could be built. The father spent his life improving and operating this land and was living there at the time of his death.

Mr. Ormsby spent his early years in Cincinnati and attended the public schools of that city for a time. He was nine years of age when his parents moved to Clayton county and there he attended the district schools and reached manhood. In 1875 he started out for himself in the world and came to Cerro Gordo county where he purchased eighty acres of wild land in section 31. There was only one house between his place and Rockwell and there were the usual difficulties to be encountered in a thinly settled district. He made nine trips to and from the old homestead in Clayton county before he finally took up his residence there. He proceeded to break some of the land and put up a house, eighteen

by twenty-four feet. In 1877 he put his land into wheat and raised a thirty bushel crop. The following year he did the same thing and had prospects of a forty bushel crop, but in July the hot winds swept over it and cooked it and as he expresses it he had on his hands eighteen hundred bushels of chicken feed. This calamity, which ruined a great many people, put an end to Mr. Ormsby's wheat raising in Iowa. He is a philosopher and able to take the bad with the good and his varied experiences have made a successful farmer out of him. He has also been fortunate in his feeding and raising of stock. He keeps informed of the latest movements in scientific agriculture and his farm is finely improved.

Mr. Ormsby is a loyal Democrat and his fellow citizens have imposed upon him several public trusts. He is at present township trustee; has served as township assessor and held all the school offices; and has filled the office of road supervisor and justice of the peace. He holds membership in the Knights of Pythias of Mason City and he and his family are members of St. Patrick's Catholic church at Dougherty.

On the last day of the year 1878 Mr. Ormsby was united in marriage to Miss Mary T. Blake, born in county Clare, Ireland, August 15, 1857. She is the daughter of Michael and Hannah (Gordon) Blake, who left their native country for America and settled in Clinton, Canada, in 1858. In 1872 they removed to Winneshiek county, where five years later the father died at the age of seventy-nine years. The mother lived for a number of years with Mrs. Ormsby, her demise occurring in 1893, at the age of seventy-four years. Mr. Ormsby was married in Clayton county and then set out with his bride for Rockwell. The weather was cold and the snow was very deep, but nevertheless Mr. Ormsby wished to go to his farm and got a man to consent to drive them there. Mr. and Mrs. Ormsby are the parents of the following six children: Loretto, wife of Martin John Mullen of Dougherty; Mattie, who is at home; May, the wife of Dr. J. L. Fleming, of Chicago; Robert F., living on his father's farm in Dougherty township; George who is in Cheney, Washington; and John Walter, who is still at home.

BRUCE A. BRYANT.

For many years a prominent and successful agriculturist and stock raiser of Cerro Gordo county, the late Bruce A. Bryant, whose home farm adjoined Mason City on the northeast, contrib-

uted generously of both time and influence in the development and advancement of the interests of his community. A man of superior business qualifications, honest and sincere in his convictions, wise in his judgments, he well merited the high esteem and respect so cordially given him by all. Descended from a family of prominence, he was born September 17, 1835, in Chenango county, New York. His parents, Almon and Lydia (Haxton) Bryant, were both born and bred in New York state, coming from honored Scotch Irish ancestry.

Educated in the common school, Bruce A. Bryant remained at home until twenty-two years of age, assisting his father, who was a butcher by trade and a stock dealer. Coming to Cerro Gordo county in 1857, he resided for four years in Mason City, after which he purchased land just south of the place, and there lived a few years. In 1862 he enlisted as a soldier in Company B, Thirty-second Iowa Volunteer Infantry, in which he served for two years, a large part of the time, however, being ill. Returning home, Mr. Bryant purchased the farm now owned by his daughter, Mrs. U. G. McGowan, just northeast of Mason City, and immediately began its improvement. It was in its primitive wildness when he assumed its possession, but under his intelligent management it soon became one of the most attractive and best improved estates in this part of the county. Here he continued his agricultural labors successfully until his death, September 24, 1895, in the meantime adding to his landed possessions until he had title to land in Mason, Lime Creek and Falls townships, his farms aggregating five hundred and seventy-one acres, all of which he personally superintended. In addition to carrying on general farming with great success he dealt extensively in stock, finding that branch of industry quite profitable. Politically Mr. Bryant was a sound Republican, and served as township trustee, while in his earlier years he was county supervisor. He was a member of C. H. Huntley Post, G. A. R., and in his religious views was liberal, favoring the Universalist belief.

Mr. Bryant married, in Mason City, Iowa, May 26, 1860, Cynthia A. Cole, who was born in Pike county, Ohio, November 11, 1839, a daughter of Edmund C. and Hannah (Kilbourn) Cole. Her parents were both born in Massachusetts, the father being of English lineage and the mother of Welsh ancestry. Mr. Cole, whose father was a seafaring man, was a farmer and a painter. Coming with his family to Iowa in 1846, he lived in Iowa City and in other places in Iowa, finally removing, about 1860, to California, where his death occurred some ten years later. His widow survived him many years, passing away in the winter of 1895-6.

Three children were born of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Bryant, namely: Almon C., who died in June, 1905, aged forty-four years; Maud, wife of U. G. McGowan; and S. Grant. Almon C. Bryant succeeded to the independent occupation to which he was reared, and until his death was prosperously engaged in agricultural pursuits. He was twice married. He married first Hattie B. True. She died in October, 1890, leaving one child, Elwin K., who died in 1893, in the sixth year of his age. He married for his second wife Matilda Eaton, and their two daughters, Ethel May and Mildred Eveline, are living in Seattle, Washington.

U. G. McGowan, who married Miss Maud Bryant, was born May 18, 1873, in Pike county, Missouri. At the age of twenty years he came to Cerro Gordo county, and has since been actively engaged in agricultural pursuits, now having charge of the Bryant homestead. He has held various local offices of trust, and is now president of the Pleasant Hill Telephone Company. Mr. and Mrs. McGowan have three children, namely: Clarence B., aged twelve years; Wayne A., nine years old; and Earl, aged six years. S. Grant Bryant, of Seattle, Washington, is carrying on a substantial business as a real estate dealer, a lumber dealer, and in the building of houses to sell. He married Leonora Parkhurst, and they have one child, Fulton, two years old.

Mrs. Bryant is still living, hale and hearty, at seventy-one years of age.

JOHN S. EDGAR.

For nearly a quarter of a century a resident of Cerro Gordo county, John S. Edgar, who operates an elevator and conducts a coal business at Rock Falls, has been an important factor in the development of this part of the state and in the advancement of its welfare. A son of William Edgar, he was born, July 12, 1842, in Dalkeith, Scotland, the home of his ancestors for many generations.

William Edgar was born and bred in Dumfries, Scotland, and there married. Coming with his family to this country in 1837, he spent about five years in Brooklyn, New York, where as a landscape gardener he laid out many beautiful grounds in and around New York city, including Greenwood and Rockaway. Returning to the old country in 1842, he remained there ten years. In the spring of 1852 he came again to America, bringing his wife and children with him, and six months later located in Janesville, Wisconsin. He engaged in farming and gardening, continuing thus employed until after the breaking out of the Civil war. He sub-

sequently enlisted in the Twenty-second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, in which he served until the close of the conflict. Returning home, he died in the fall of 1865, from diseases contracted while in the army, aged sixty-two years. The maiden name of his wife was Helen Simm. She was born in Dalkeith, Scotland, October 23, 1807, and died, March 5, 1907, having almost rounded out a full century of life. Her husband was a Scotch Presbyterian in religion and in the later years of her life she was affiliated with the Methodist church. Their seven children were all born in Scotland, and three of them are still living, namely: Archibald, of Imperial, California; Mrs. J. G. Wray, of Janesville, Wisconsin; and John S. One son, William Edgar, served in the Second New York Heavy Artillery during the Civil war.

Rearred in Wisconsin, John S. Edgar was educated in the public schools, and during the Civil war was engaged as a teamster in Missouri and Arkansas for nine months, but had to return home to care for his mother and the farm. In 1867, desirous of broadening his field of action, Mr. Edgar came to Iowa, locating first in Mitchell county, where he followed farming four years. Going to Worth county in 1871, he continued as an agriculturist until 1886. He then established an elevator at Rock Falls, and this he has since conducted successfully, at the same time having built up an extensive and remunerative coal business and being interested also in quarrying.

Mr. Edgar married, in Wisconsin in 1866, Elizabeth Woolliscroft, who was born in Staffordshire, England, December 2, 1845; her father, William B. Wooliscroft, was born in England in 1816, came with his wife and seven children to the United States in 1859, locating in Janesville, Wisconsin, and he died in 1898 in California. He married Hannah Buckston, who was born in England in 1819, and was accidentally killed in July, 1868, in Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Woolliscroft reared nine children, seven of whom live in California, one in Washington, while Mrs. Edgar is in Iowa. Eight children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Edgar, namely: Mrs. Annie Blakeley, of Mason City; Mrs. Vinnie Cook, of Waterloo; Mrs. May White, of Rock Falls; William David, of Rock Falls; Thomas B., of California; Ray; Glen W., of Rock Falls; and John Sim, Jr., who lived but nine years. Politically Mr. Edgar, although he cast his first presidential vote for John C. Fremont and afterwards for Abraham Lincoln for president, has always been a Democrat.

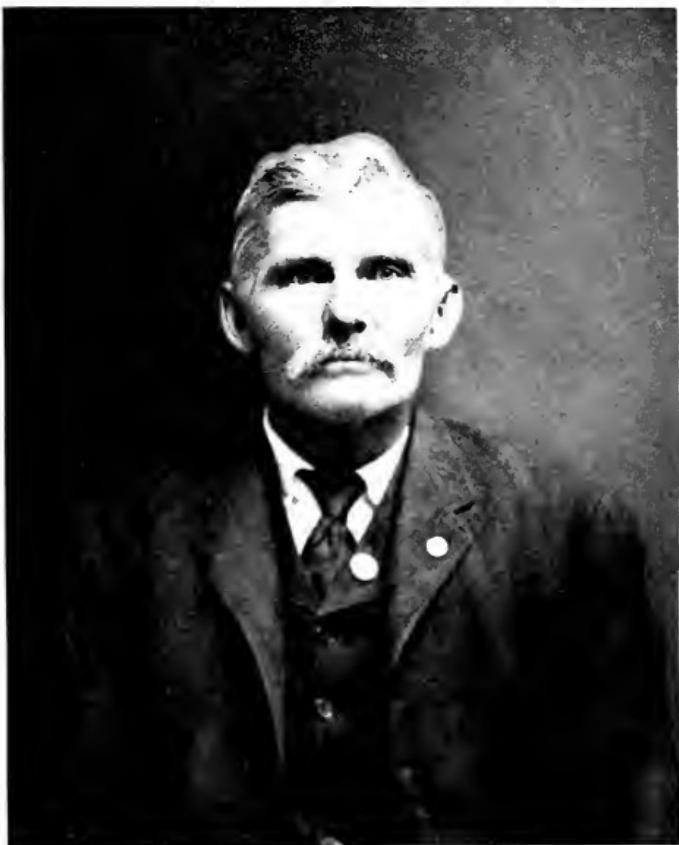
ADDISON M. BAKER.

A. M. Baker, farmer and dairyman, is a well known resident of Lake township, where he owns and operates a farm of three hundred and twenty acres finely improved by himself. This is located in sections 9 and 4 and is a valuable piece of property. Mr. Baker was born in Rock county, Wisconsin, August 15, 1846, and is a son of Benjamin C. and Lydia (Case) Baker, natives of New York who early moved to Wisconsin. The father was a farmer and died at a comparatively age, (April 15, 1865). He left five children, all of whom are living. They are B. F., a farmer residing near Clear Lake; William H., who lives in Dakota; Mrs. A. W. Wood, of Lake township; Mrs. Charles Searles, of West Union, Iowa; and Mr. Baker. The mother survived until November 21, 1897, her age being seventy-eight years.

Mr. Baker acquired his education in the common schools and upon his father's farm received his training in the various departments of agriculture. He was very young at the beginning of the Civil war, but in 1864, when he became eighteen, he enlisted in Company D of the Thirty-eighth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry and served in the Army of the Potomac until 1865. He returned home and took up farming, marrying in 1870. In the spring of 1892 he resolved upon a change of location, and recognizing the superior advantages of Cerro Gordo county, located there, purchasing his present home farm. For the past three years he has been engaged in dairying and sells milk and cream at Clear Lake. He owns seventy cows, all of them of good grades, and has achieved unqualified success in his new calling.

Mr. Baker's political convictions are Republican and he is the friend of progress and all that tends to work towards the common good of the community. He has served in various county and school offices. He has several pleasant affiliations, among them membership in the Masonic order and the Tom Howard Post, No. 101 of the Grand Army of the Republic. Mrs. Baker belongs to the Women's Relief Corps.

Mr. Baker was married in 1870, in Wisconsin, to Miss Melissa Wood, who died in Eldorado, Kansas, in 1882, leaving three children: Orin, now of California; Mrs. Charles Hopper, of Beloit, Wisconsin; and Arthur, a farmer living in Lake township. He was married a second time, in 1884, to Mrs. Hattie (Peck) Henderson, of Wisconsin, and the following eight children have been born to them: Perley (married), who is living at home; Etheline, wife of Frank Paul of Union township; Hazel, Benjamin H., Jessie Joy,



Addison M Baker

A. M. Jr., Vaida and Lois. The Baker post office is Clear Lake. Mrs. Baker had a son by her former marriage, William H. Henderson, a farmer in Lake township.

ARTHUR H. DEAN.

One of the most prosperous and intelligent agriculturists of Cerro Gordo county, Arthur H. Dean owns and occupies a valuable farm of three hundred and twenty acres in sections twenty-five and twenty-six, Mason township, where he is carrying on general farming after the most approved modern methods, exercising great skill and good judgment in his labors. A son of Richard Dean, he was born in 1862 in Winnebago county, Illinois, and was there brought up and educated.

A native of England, Richard Dean was born in Yorkshire, where the days of his boyhood and youth were spent. Emigrating to this country at the age of eighteen years, he was for some time employed in the Rhode Island woolen factories. When ready to start in life on his own account he migrated to Illinois, and was engaged in tilling the soil in Winnebago county until 1885. Coming in that year to Cerro Gordo county, he purchased two hundred and forty acres of land in Mason township, and having placed the larger part of it under culture bought eighty acres of adjoining land. Here he continued to live and labor until his death, in 1902, at the venerable age of four score or more years. He was an unswerving Republican in politics. He married Ann Saunderson, who was born in Manchester, England, their union being solemnized in Providence, Rhode Island. She was a member of the Episcopal church. She preceeded him to the world beyond, passing away in 1898, aged seventy-six years. They reared three children, as follows: Frank, residing at Victoria, where he has large holdings; Arthur H.; and Mary, who died in 1903, aged thirty-seven years.

Brought up in Illinois, Arthur H. Dean received a common school education, and after coming with the family to Mason township, Cerro Gordo county, assisted his father in improving the large and valuable farm which he now owns and occupies. A gentleman in the prime of life, active, energetic, with a clear head for business, Mr. Dean has long been a prominent factor in the industrial interests of this part of the county and is everywhere respected as a man of honor and worth. Politically Mr. Dean is a stalwart Republican, and religiously he attends the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. Dean married, in February, 1890, at Charles City, Iowa,

Fidelia A. Elwell, who was born in La Salle county, Illinois, but was brought up and educated in Floyd county, Iowa. Of this union two children have been born, namely: Earl M., aged fifteen years; and Edna, aged thirteen years.

JOHN DAWSON.

Probably no citizen in the length and breadth of Cerro Gordo county can more truly be accounted a self made man than John Dawson, a farmer residing in section 8 of Lake township. He has proved that the best silver spoon to have in one's mouth at birth is courage, and persistent industry and the manner in which he has utilized the natural resources of his adopted country is a credit to him. Mr. Dawson is British in nationality, having been born in Lincolnshire, England, October 10, 1843. His parents were Carter and Charlotta (Wills) Dawson. The father died in 1848, at the age of thirty-four years, but the mother survived for many years, departing this life in 1874. They were the parents of three children, Mr. Dawson being the only one of these who survived.

Deprived of his natural protector at the early age of five years, John Dawson was as soon as possible launched forth upon his own resources. His first occupation was picking up potatoes, for which he received the enormous compensation of six cents a day. Naturally his education was neglected, there being little time to attend school. In 1866 he married and in 1872 he left his wife and four children in England and started for America. He landed at Quebec with three cents of his savings in his pocket and two dollars and a half which a man had given him for looking after some horses while on board ship. He went to Franklin county, New York, and secured employment on a farm and in 1873 found himself in a position to send for his wife and children. Soon afterward he came west and located in Cerro Gordo county, working rented land in Lake township. By the exercise of great thrift he was able in 1882 to purchase his present farm of one hundred and fifty acres. He has done wonders in his improvement of this place and whereas when he bought the farm it did not produce over twenty bushels of corn to the acre, last year it averaged seventy bushels to the acre. He started into the dairy business at once and has conducted that with great profit in connection with his farming. In 1903 he gave its management into the hands of his daughter, Charlotta A., who has ever since successfully operated the Clear Lake Dairy, as it is called. She understands every detail of the work, milking the cows, delivering the milk, and

proving her competence with financial results. Mr. Dawson has also recently rented his farm and has partially retired from hard work. For a number of years Mr. Dawson gave his support to the Democratic party, but recently has voted the Republican ticket. He served at one time as school director of Lake township.

Mr. Dawson was married in England, May 15, 1866, to Elizabeth Daubney, who was born in England April 21, 1846. To the union were born twelve children, the following seven surviving: Elizabeth A., wife of Isaac Furley, of Lake township; Robert J. and James H., who resides in North Dakota; Charlotta A., owner of the Clear Lake Dairy; Charles C., of Lincoln township; Frederick H., of Clear Lake township; and George C., of North Dakota.

In addition to his Iowa property Mr. Dawson owns one hundred and sixty acres of improved land in North Dakota.

THOMAS W. DENT.

Distinguished not only for his good citizenship, but for his honorable record as a soldier in the Civil war, T. W. Dent, of Mason township, is numbered among the enterprising and prosperous agriculturists of Cerro Gordo county. A son of Joseph Dent, he was born October 8, 1846, at Beaver Dam, Dodge county, Wisconsin. Born in the Empire state, Joseph Dent accompanied his parents to Wisconsin when he was a boy, passing enroute through Chicago, which was then a small hamlet, while Milwaukee had but thirteen houses within its limits. He began working for himself as soon as old enough, continuing his residence in Wisconsin until his death, in 1857, at the early age of thirty-five years. He married Elizabeth Emerson, who was also born in New York state, and was brought up in Wisconsin. After the death of her husband she lived for a number of years in Faribault county, Minnesota, from there coming to Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, and making her home with her son T. W. Dent until her death, at the age of seventy-one years, in 1892. She reared four children of whom but two are living, T. W. and Wilson M., the latter of Chamberlain, South Dakota.

In February, 1864, at the age of seventeen years, T. W. Dent enlisted in Company I, Thirty-first Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and being assigned to the Western Army served until the close of the conflict. He saw duty in Kentucky and Tennessee, was with Sherman in the Atlanta campaign and marched with him to the "Sea." At the last engagement, in Bentonville, North Carolina, March 18, 1865, he received his first serious wound, although he

bad many close calls in other battles, and at the time of the Grand Review in Washington was in the hospital. His record as a soldier shows that during the entire campaign Mr. Dent was never sick and never off duty. In 1866 he came with his mother to Minnesota and immediately commenced his career as a farmer. In 1873 he came to Cerro Gordo county, and subsequently purchased eighty acres of land in section six, Mason township, and in the improvement of the farm has been very successful. Coming here with limited means, he has made the most of his opportunities, by means of industry, perseverance and judicious management acquiring a competency.

Mr. Dent married, in Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, in 1868, Emeline Cannon, who was born in Chautauqua, county, New York, in 1848. Her parents, Amaziah and Cornelia (Wait) Cannon, natives of Chautauqua county, New York, migrated with their family to Wisconsin in 1855, and for eleven years resided in Columbia county. Coming from there to Iowa in the spring of 1866, they located in the north half of the northwest quarter of section six, Mason township. Mr. Cannon having paid \$3.00 an acre for the land the previous fall. He subsequently bought eighty acres of land in Lake township, giving six dollars an acre. The land in both townships was in its original wildness, he and his descendants having made all the improvements on the property. Mr. Cannon died on the home farm February 9, 1881, aged sixty-one years, and Mrs. Cannon, now a venerable woman of eighty-seven years, still resides on the old homestead. Three children blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Cannon, as follows: Sidney, a prosperous young agriculturist, who died in 1891, leaving a widow; Emeline, now Mrs. Dent; and Etta, widow of Andrew W. Storer, of whom a brief personal sketch may be found elsewhere in this volume.

Mr. and Mrs. Dent are the parents of four children, namely: Elmer Joseph, a telegraph operator at St. Paul, Minnesota; Sidney A., of Mason City, an electrician employed in the electric plant; Louis W.; and Jesse Grant. Politically Mr. Dent is an uncompromising Republican. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the C. H. Huntley Post, No. 42, G. A. R., of Mason City. Mrs. Dent is a member of the Women's Relief Corps.

AARON N. GRIMM.

Among those who enjoy a wide acquaintance in Cerro Gordo county and play a prominent part in the industrial and social life of the community is Aaron N. Grimm, county supervisor and stock

buyer. Mr. Grimm was elected to the supervisorship in November, 1908, and is filling the office with great credit to himself and the county. He was born at Hinckley, Dekalb county, Illinois, August 27, 1863, his parents being Henry and Addie (Laudermelch) Grimm, both of them natives of Pennsylvania. The father was born in 1832 and died at Hinckley, February 19, 1900. The mother survived until November 1, 1909, her age at the time of her demise being seventy-six years. They were the parents of eight children, of whom the following six are alive: Charles M., of Mason township, who for two years held the world's championship for shot gun shooting of live birds; George W., a citizen of Clear Lake; Aaron N.; Alice, wife of G. A. Raymer, of Paw Paw, Illinois; Elmer S., of Big Rock, Illinois; and Eugene of Clear Lake, Iowa. The father grew to manhood in his native state, married, and in 1856 moved to Illinois, locating in Dekalb county and for a while farmed on a modest scale on eighty acres of land which was in a wild state when he acquired it. He was thrifty and industrious and found success, owning a very large tract of land at the time of his death.

Mr. Grimm was reared on a farm in Illinois and enjoyed the advantage of a graded school education. At the age of twenty years he started out in life for himself and farmed in Dekalb county on rented land. He early showed ability in buying and selling stock and eventually found himself in the position to buy land of his own. In 1891 Mr. Grimm sold out in Illinois and the same year came to Cerro Gordo county, where he purchased first eighty and then one hundred and sixty acres more in section 25, Clear Lake township. He improved this land and lived upon it until December, 1893, when he rented it and removed to Clear Lake to engage in the meat business. In 1898 he sold his meat market and two years later bought it back, again disposing of it in 1905. While actively engaged in agriculture he was an extensive stock feeder and from boyhood to the present day he has dealt in stock, now handling on an average of two hundred and fifty ears a year. In November, 1908, he assumed his present office of county supervisor.

Mr. Grimm finds much pleasure and profit in his affiliations, these including membership in the Knights of Pythias, the Masonic order, the Woodmen, the Modern Brotherhood of America, all of Clear Lake, and the Elks at Mason City, Iowa. He approves of the present policies and principles of Republicanism, but was a supporter of Grover Cleveland.

On December 3, 1884, Mr. Grimm took as his bride Miss Isola

Bartmess, born May 27, 1864, at Maple Park, Kane county, Illinois. They have a beautiful home in Clear Lake, this having been remodeled with all the modern improvements. Two children have blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Grimm, these being Goldbern L., born January 19, 1886, and Myrtle, born February 24, 1890. The latter married Lester J. Watts.

CHARLES FROMM.

Charles Fromm, who is engaged in general farming and stock raising on his finely improved farm of one hundred and twenty acres in section 11, Lime Creek township, Cerro Gordo county, and whose post office address is Plymouth, Iowa, R. F. D. No. 5, took up his residence here in the spring of 1875. At first he rented the land, then he bought it, and here for a period of thirty-five years he has lived and successfully labored. His plow was the first to turn the soil of his now well cultivated fields, and he made all the improvements on his farm.

Mr. Fromm was born in Meeklenburg, now a part of Prussia, March 26, 1850, but his earliest recollections are of a home in Wisconsin, his parents, John and Johanna (Kludt) Fromm, having left the old country in the fall of 1851 and emigrated to America. They settled on a farm in Washington county, Wisconsin, where they passed the rest of their lives and died. They were members of the German Lutheran church, and were highly respected citizens of the community in which they lived. Their two sons, John and Charles, came from the Wisconsin home to Iowa and are residents of the same township.

After coming to this state Charles Fromm married Miss Catherine Werle, who was born in Washington county, Wisconsin, November 18, 1860. Her parents, Jacob and Margaret (Sehmmidt) Werle, both of German birth, came as young people to America, for some years lived in Wisconsin, and subsequently came from that state to Iowa. Both died at Manley, Worth county, this state. To Mr. and Mrs. Fromm have been given a daughter and two sons, namely: Anna, wife of G. W. Edgar, of Rock Falls, Iowa, and John and Edward, at home, attending school.

Politically Mr. Fromm is independent. His religious creed is that of the German Lutheran church, in which he was reared and of which he is a worthy member.

ANDREW I. SONDROL.

One of the estimable citizens of Clear Lake whose loss is still a matter of deep regret was Andrew I. Sondrol, of the firm of Halvorson and Sondrol, general mercantile dealers. Mr. Sondrol was born in Norway, December 11, 1856, and died in Clear Lake, October 22, 1906. He was the son of Iven and Mary (Hann) Sondrol, both of whom lived and died in their native place. They were the parents of eleven children, four of whom are living. Three of these live in Norway, and Einor is a citizen of Esterville, Iowa.

Mr. Sondrol was reared on a farm in the mountainous district of Norway and received a good education, attending a college for a time. In 1876, when he was twenty years of age, he concluded to seek his fortunes in the land of great opportunity and resources as yet undeveloped, where a great many of his associates had preceded him. Upon landing he looked about him for awhile and then came on to Iowa, locating at Decorah, where for a year he attended the Norwegian College. He then found employment as a clerk, and in 1881 returned home on a three months' visit. The spring of 1882 found him again in the United States and located in Esterville, Iowa, where he established himself in the general merchandise business. In 1885 he sold out and in March of the ensuing year went to Clear Lake, which was to prove his permanent home. Here he entered a business partnership, forming the firm of Halvorson & Sondrol, this continuing until 1889, when Mr. Sondrol purchased his associate's interest and thereafter until his death conducted the business alone. He was a successful man and whatever success he achieved was due to his sound business methods and integrity. Politically he gave his support to the Republican party and denominationaly was a Lutheran. He held membership in the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America.

On October 14, 1883, Mr. Sondrol was united in marriage to Miss Carrie M. Palmer, born at Spirit Lake, Iowa, November 29, 1864. She was the daughter of Eben and Lydia (Denney) Palmer, the former born at Canton, Pennsylvania, June 6, 1835, and the latter in Pennsylvania, May 5, 1838. These pioneers came west to Iowa, making the journey by wagon, and located at Spirit Lake, where for years the father was engaged in the hardware business. He retired from business some time ago and in 1908 came to Clear Lake, where they reside with Mrs. Sondrol. Besides his widow, Mr. Sondrol is survived by two children, Thorkel, who has conducted the store since his father's death, and Edith.

FRANK S. BABCOCK.

Standing high among the keen, progressive and business like agriculturists who have so ably assisted in advancing the farming interests of Cerro Gordo county is Frank S. Babcock, who until within a very short time ago owned and operated a finely improved farm of two hundred and sixty acres in sections twenty-three and twenty-six, Mason township. This estate he has recently sold, intending to become a permanent resident of Mason City. He was born in 1853 in Cortland county, New York, which was likewise the birthplace of his father, Ira J. Babcock.

When about eighteen years old Ira J. Babcock, zealous to try life in a newer country, drove across the intervening states from Cortland county, New York, to Chicago, Illinois, where he remained a short time, although he did not then decide to locate in the west. Making another trip to Illinois in 1856, he located in Freeport, Stephenson county, where he was most successfully engaged in building and contracting until 1884. Being then well advanced in years, he retired from active pursuits and continued his residence in that city until 1884, when he came to this county, where his death occurred at the age of eighty-four, in 1902. His wife, whose girlhood name was Abigail Curtiss, was born in New York state, where they were married, and she died in January, 1909, in Cerro Gordo county, aged eighty-seven years. They reared four children, as follows: Edward O., a dry goods merchant in New York city; Mrs. Alice Bigelow, of Chicago, Illinois; Mrs. Mary V. Goodhue, of Chicago; and Frank S.

Brought up and educated in Freeport, Illinois, Frank S. Babcock learned the carpenter's trade when young, and subsequently was associated with his father as a carpenter and builder. Coming to Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, in 1884, he bought land in sections thirty-five and thirty-six, in the southern part of Mason township, and after making many improvements on the farm sold it at an advantage. He subsequently bought the farm of two hundred and sixty acres referred to above, and in its management was especially successful, carrying on general farming and stock raising with most satisfactory pecuniary results.

On May 28, 1888, Mr. Babcock married, in Cerro Gordo county, Mattie B. Milligan, who was born in Winnebago county, Illinois, June 27, 1864. Her father, James Milligan, a native of Hunterdon county, New Jersey, spent several years of his earlier life in Winnebago county, Illinois, from there coming in 1877 to Iowa. Buying land in Cerro Gordo county, he carried on farming for a

while. Subsequently selling his farm, he removed to Mason City, and here lived retired until his death, March 11, 1905, at the age of seventy-eight years. He married Jane Bull, who was born in Perry county, Pennsylvania, and died in Mason City, Iowa, January 12, 1903, aged sixty-eight years. Of the eleven children born to Mr. and Mrs. Milligan, Mrs. Babcock is the only one now residing in Cerro Gordo county, although nine of them are living, six sons being engaged in railroad work in various parts of the Union.

Mr. and Mrs. Babcock have two children, namely: Mabel, wife of George McLaury, of Mason City, and who has one child, Ella McLaury; and Edward O. Politically Mr. Babcock is a steadfast supporter of the principles of the Republican party. He has been secretary of the local school board for the past fifteen years, and for eight years has served as township trustee. Fraternally he is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Although his parents were strict Baptists and brought him up in the same religious faith, he belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church, of which Mrs. Babcock is also a member.

HON. JOSEPH J. CLARK.

Honorable Joseph J. Clark, judge of the district court of the Twelfth Judicial District of Iowa and a resident of Mason City, was born in Madison county, Kentucky, October 30, 1851, a son of James W. and Martha (Embry) Clark.

James W. Clark was a graduate of Danville University in Kentucky and was first a lawyer, being engaged in the practice of law at Lexington, Kentucky, for a few years, and afterward he became a Presbyterian minister. He was twice a delegate to the Presbyterian General Assembly. He married in Richmond, Kentucky, and his wife, Martha E., was a daughter of William and Nancy Embry. William Embry, who was an early pioneer of Madison county, became a wealthy planter, and was an acquaintance and friend of Daniel Boone. James W. Clark was of Scotch-Irish and English descent. His grandfather, James, was of a wealthy English family which located in Albemarle county, Virginia. He was a prominent planter of the colonial period. The subject's grandfather, John, was a native of Virginia and an attorney. He married Maria Moore McCalla, of Virginia, whose parents were natives of the north of Ireland. Her father, Andrew, served as purveyor-general of the medical department of Virginia in the Revolutionary war. The subject's grand uncle, John Mc-

Calla, was an attorney and marshall of the state of Kentucky for about twenty years and was also auditor of the treasury, during his incumbency being located in Washington, D. C. He was a soldier and saw service at the battle of River Raisin; was a prominent member of the legal fraternity, and a member of the legislature of Kentucky. James W. Clark and his wife moved from Kentucky to Saline county, Missouri. In 1865 they removed to Nebraska City, Nebraska, and the following year to Clarinda, Iowa. The mother was born in Kentucky in 1819, her parents being natives of the Keystone state. Her father's parents came from Scotland and on her mother's side she was descended from the French Huguenots. Both of Mr. Clark's parents died at Clarinda, his father in his sixty-fourth year and his mother in her eighty-third.

Joseph J. was the eighth in order of birth of the family of eight sons and two daughters born to his parents. One of the number, Honorable T. E. Clark, late of Clarinda, was at one time a member of the Iowa state senate. Judge Clark accompanied his parents on their several removals, as above stated; had the advantage of a high school education; and afterward by farm work, teaching and other lines of endeavor, earned the means with which he finished his education. He is a graduate of the law department of the State University of Iowa and was admitted to practice in the supreme court with the class of 1873. The year following his graduation Mr. Clark settled in Mason City, Iowa, and entered into a partnership with Honorable John S. Stanbery, under the firm name of Stanbery & Clark, which association continued with a large and successful law practice for more than a quarter of a century. During this time Mr. Clark took a prominent part in all the important civil, social, political and public movements and enterprises of the city and county. He was elected county attorney of Cerro Gordo county in 1886 and filled that office three successive terms. In June, 1908, upon the resignation of Judge Clifford P. Smith, the Republican Judicial Convention held at Charles City nominated Mr. Clark for the unexpired term of Judge Smith. Governor Cummings endorsed the action by appointing Mr. Clark to fill the vacancy, and that fall he was elected and has now filled the office for more than two years, as one of the judges of the Twelfth Judicial District. He was renominated in June and re-elected in November, 1910. He has always been a Republican in politics, and since coming to Mason City has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, filling prominent places in both political and religious organizations.



Geo. W. Grimm

Judge Clark was twice elected to the lay electoral conference and to the general conference and served as a lay delegate to the general conference of the Methodist church held in Baltimore, Maryland, in May, 1908. He has always been active in various temperance, political, literary and philanthropical organizations.

On September 13, 1875, Mr. Clark married Miss Ida Belle Chambers, daughter of Rev. W. A. Chambers, who for three years was pastor of the First Methodist Episcopal church of Mason City. To them were born three children: Edward W., now clerk of the district court of Cerro Gordo county, Iowa; Frederick J., now a Methodist minister; and a daughter who died in infancy.

Edward W. Clark, the elder of Judge Clark's sons, was born June 12, 1876; was reared at Mason City, Iowa; and is a graduate of the Mason City high school with the June class of 1895. In 1898 he enlisted with the Fifty-second Iowa Regiment and served as its color sergeant during the Spanish war. Upon his return he engaged in the banking business for himself and others until in the fall of 1906 he was elected clerk of the district court of Cerro Gordo county, the place he now occupies. He was married April 29, 1903, to Emma H. Hansen, a native of Minnesota.

The second son, Rev. Fred J. Clark is a graduate of Cornell College of Mt. Vernon, Iowa, and is now pursuing his final year's study in the Boston University of Boston, Massachusetts. He was married to Miss Prudence Weston April 25, 1906.

GEORGE W. GRIMM.

George W. Grimm, an extensive land owner in Cerro Gordo county, residing in Clear Lake, where he follows the vocation of an auctioneer, was born in Dekalb county, Illinois, September 25, 1858, the son of Henry and Abbie (Landermelch) Grimm, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania. The father was born in 1832 and died at Hinckly, Illinois, February 19, 1900. The mother's demise occurred November 1, 1909, at the age of seventy-six years. They were the parents of eight children, six of whom are living, as follows: Charles M., of Mason township; George W.; Aaron N., residing in Clear Lake township; Alice, the wife of G. A. Raymer, of Paw Paw, Illinois; Elmer S., of Big Rock, Illinois; and Eugene of Clear Lake, Iowa. The father grew to manhood in his native state, married there and in 1856 moved to Illinois. After looking about him he located in Dekalb county and purchased eighty acres of land. By the use of intelligent methods in his farming he prospered and at the time of his death was the owner of a large tract of land.

George W. Grimm was reared on his father's farm, and enjoyed the wholesome advantages of life in the country. He attended the district school in the winter months and in the summer received a very practical training in agriculture. In 1878, when twenty years of age, he left home to make his own fortunes in the world and coming to Cerro Gordo county, secured employment as a farm hand. He continued at this until 1882, when he took his savings and purchased eighty acres of partly improved land in section 14, Union township. He further improved these and added to them from time to time until when he retired to Clear Lake in the fall of 1903 he had accumulated one thousand and forty acres, this consisting of three farms with three sets of buildings and a tract of land in South Dakota. Since coming to Clear Lake he has devoted his time to auctioneering and is a success in this line. He has made a specialty of Hereford cattle-raising and feeds about two car loads of cattle a year.

Mr. Grimm gives allegiance to the Republican party and takes an active interest in public affairs. He has served as township assessor two years and as trustee for six years. He is a member of the Clear Lake Independent Order of Odd Fellows and his wife attends the Methodist Episcopal church. His success in life has been principally due to his own efforts, for he came to Cerro Gordo county with nothing and has made of life a success.

Mr. Grimm was united in marriage, in December, 1883, to Miss Henrietta Callanan, born in 1865. Five children were born to this union: Milton, living in South Dakota; Irving, of New York city; Floyd, of Union township; Hazel, wife of Henry Harthan of Lake township; and Gladys, who is at home. His second wife was Miss Anna Billings, born at Shabbona, Illinois, September 25, 1865. Her parents were John and Martha (Bigelow) Billings, the former born in Michigan May 3, 1837, and at present a resident of Clear Lake township; the latter, born in Michigan in 1842 and dying September 5, 1893. They located in Illinois at an early date and in 1882 moved to Cerro Gordo county and took up their residence in Union township. Mr. Grimm's second marriage took place December 24, 1900, and has been blessed by the birth of one child, Edna F., who is at home. Mrs. Grimm was married the first time October 1, 1882, to William Leonard, by whom she had two children, Dora, wife of Charles Adler of Union township, and Daisy, who resides at the Grimm home. Both Mr. and Mrs. Grimm were legally separated from their former wife and husband.

WILLIAM F. FROST.

Among the industrious, far-seeing and enterprising men who have been associated with the agricultural interests of Cerro Gordo county for a full half century is William F. Frost, who owns and occupies the farm, on the southwest quarter of section twenty-seven, Portland township, on which his father, Benjamin Frost, settled in June, 1860, coming here in pioneer days. He was born, December 12, 1846, in Dubuque county, Iowa, and with the exception of two years spent in Kansas has lived on his present homestead since fourteen years of age.

Coming from New England stock, Benjamin Frost was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and was there brought up and educated. Beginning life for himself at the age of seventeen years, he made his way westward to Galena, Illinois, where he was for a few years employed in lead mining. Coming from there to Iowa he married and for a number of years resided in Dubuque county. Locating in Cerro Gordo county in June, 1860, he bought six hundred acres of land that was still in its virgin wildness in Portland township, and began the improvement of a homestead. Cedar Falls, sixty-five miles away, was the nearest market, all wheat and other surplus produce of the farm being hauled to that place. Times were hard, and the pioneers had a hard time to pay taxes and living expenses. He was prominent in public affairs, serving as school director many years and holding other township offices. Subsequently moving with his family to Kansas, he was a pioneer settler of Neodesha, where he spent his last days, passing away at the age of seventy-six years. He married in Dubuque county, Iowa, Elizabeth Filbrick, who survived him about ten years. They became the parents of three children, namely: Benjamin T., a wealthy resident of Neodesha, Kansas, where he has extensive holdings; Mary Elizabeth, who married Charles Trevett, of Portland township, and died at the age of twenty-four years, leaving three children; and William F. The father and both of the sons took up quarter sections of land in Wilson county, Kansas, in pioneer times.

Having spent the larger part of his active life on the farm where he now resides, William F. Frost has made improvements of value on the place, having one of the most valuable and productive farms in the vicinity. In company with his son he operates his home farm of one hundred and sixty acres, in addition leasing two hundred acres of land, which he is conducting with good results.

Mr. Frost has been three times married. He married first, in

Portland township, Sarah J. Frost. They had three children, namely: Eva Estelle, Florence E. and Frank W. Eva Estelle married F. M. Angel, now of Mason City, and to them five children have been born, Guy, Grace, Leslie, Wilbur and a child that died in infancy. Florence E., married Douglas Lepley, of Bemidji, Minnesota, and of their two children one is living, a son named Wayne. Frank W., a talented and accomplished musician, is widely known as a professor of music, a successful teacher and a composer of ability. He has a keen, delicate touch, and can play on six musical instruments at one time.

Mr. Frost married for his second wife Mrs. Flora I. Townsend, a widow with two children, William Roy Townsend, a farmer in Minnesota, and Ernest Edwin Townsend, who recently sold the claim that he took up in Assinniboine, Manitoba, and is now a resident of Sawyer, Minnesota. She died August 13, 1904, leaving five children by her marriage with Mr. Frost, one of whom, Nellie, is the wife of William I. Morris, living just north of Mason City, and they have three children, Litta, Leon and Charles; Benjamin Ray, is a blacksmith working on a farm in Dougherty township.

Mr. Frost married for his third wife, January 26, 1909, Mrs. Sarah Ann (Kelley) Trevett, who was born in Northumberland county, Canada, and at the age of sixteen years came with her parents, James R. and Elizabeth (Curtiss) Kelley, to Iowa, locating first in Floyd county. She married first Emmanuel C. Trevett, who died in early manhood, leaving her with one daughter, Mrs. F. T. Stevens, of North Dakota. She married for her second husband Charles C. Trevett, a brother of her first husband, and they became the parents of four children, namely: a daughter that died in infancy; Mrs. Albert Dearwin, of Mason City; Cora E. Trevett, who is in the employ of the Damon-Igon Company; and Harry C. Trevett, of Kansas City, a bricklayer by trade.

A Republican in politics, Mr. Frost has rendered appreciated service in numerous local offices, serving for eighteen years as road master. Fraternally he belongs to the Highland Nobles and to the Yeomen of America. Mrs. Frost is a Seventh Day Adventist, but they both attend the Evangelical church, of which Mr. Frost is a member.

WILLIAM G. BELL.

A man of excellent business capacity, industrious and enterprising, William G. Bell is successfully engaged in the prosecution of a calling upon which the wealth and prosperity of our nation so

largely depends, and upon which each succeeding year much more study and money is expended. A native of Cerro Gordo county, he was born September 21, 1884, in Portland township, on the farm where he is now living, a son of the late Malcolm G. Bell, Sr.

A son of Ronald Bell, who is now living at the advanced age of eighty-seven years, Malcolm G. Bell, Sr., was born in Canada. At the age of eight years he came with his parents to the States, and for six or more years lived in Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin. Coming then to Iowa, his father rented land in Owen township, which was the family home for a number of years. On attaining his majority Malcolm G. Bell, Sr., began farming in Owen township, from there coming in 1882 to Portland township. Buying a tract of land, he labored hard to place it under cultivation, in addition to tilling the soil feeding and raising a fine grade of cattle. He became exceedingly successful in his operations, adding to his original purchase until he had a magnificent farm of four hundred and forty acres, on which he had erected substantial farm buildings and made other improvements of great value. Here he resided, an honored, contented and respected citizen, until his death, in August, 1904, when but forty-eight years of age. He was active and prominent in public affairs, holding various local offices and being ever a promoter of beneficial enterprises.

Malcolm G. Bell, Sr., married, in Cerro Gordo county, Mary A. Carrott, a daughter of William Carrott, a pioneer farmer and stock raiser and a man of prominence. Five children were born of their union, namely: Mrs. Mabel Brahm, of Mason City; Mrs. Lulu Tourtellot, of Owen township; William G., of this review; Malcolm G., Jr., a farmer and stockman in Portland township, married Gertrude O'Harrow, of Owen township, and Myrle, living with her widowed mother in Mason City.

William G. Bell received his rudimentary education in the rural schools of his native district, afterward taking a business course of two years. Choosing the occupation to which he was reared, he is now successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits on the home farm, which is one of the most valuable and desirable pieces of property in the township, being finely improved and readily yielding to cultivation.

Mr. Bell married in January, 1908, Litta L. Huntley, a former teacher in the Mason City schools, and they have one child, Alden H. Bell, born in September, 1909. Politically Mr. Bell is a Republican. Mr. and Mrs. Bell are members of the Christian Science church.

EMORY COOPER.

The subject of this sketch is a representative of one of the pioneer families of Cerro Gordo county, Iowa—the Coopers. Josephus Cooper, the father of Emory, was born and reared in Virginia. At the age of twenty-one years he left the “Old Dominion” and came west as far as Illinois, where he subsequently married Miss Ibbey Tucker, and where, in Stephenson county, he was for several years engaged in farming. From there he came to Iowa, spent some time in Dubuque, Bremer and Floyd counties, and in the spring of 1865 took up his residence in Cerro Gordo county. Here, on section 1, Lime Creek township, he bought one hundred and sixty acres of land, and on this place passed the rest of his life and died, his death occurring in 1879, at the age of sixty-four years. His wife died in Floyd county, Iowa, in 1860, at the age of thirty years. They were the parents of three sons and five daughters, namely: Jesse M., born in 1848, resides in Worth county, Iowa; Emory, whose name introduces this sketch; J. C., born in 1860, now owns and occupies the one hundred and sixty acres in Lime Creek township which his father purchased on coming to the county, as above stated; Aletha Jane, who died in 1908, in Minnesota, at the age of sixty years; Emeline, born in 1840, is the widow of J. A. Boutell, and resides in Worth county, Iowa; Betsey Ann, born in 1842, became the wife of Jacob Kuapp, and she died in the '70s, leaving two children; Eliza, born in 1844, died in the '70s; and Rebecca born in 1853, is the wife of Albert Goldthorp, and a resident of Lime Creek township.

Emory Cooper was born in 1851 in Stephenson county, Illinois. He was reared there and in Iowa, having accompanied his parents on their removal to this state, and with other members of the family he landed in Lime Creek township, Cerro Gordo county, March 5, 1865. Here he has since lived, with the exception of about ten years spent in Worth county, this state. He remained a member of the home circle until he was twenty-six years of age, when he went to Worth county and settled down to farming on his own account. He bought and sold a farm there, and he has since bought and sold several farms in Cerro Gordo county; also at one time he owned two hundred acres of land in Minnesota. After his father's death he was administrator of the estate. Now, partially retired from active work, he resides on a fine little farm of twenty-two acres in section 1, Lime Creek township, which has been his home since 1898.

In Worth county, Iowa, in 1878, Mr. Cooper married Miss

Maggie Breneman, a native of Clarion county, Pennsylvania, born October 8, 1852, daughter of George and Ebeline (Campbell) Breneman, and third in a family of four, the others being: Mattie, wife of George Debell, died at Washburn, Wisconsin, May 1, 1906, at the age of fifty-eight years; Anna, wife of A. C. Abbey, of Northwood, Iowa, and D. C. Breneman, born in 1857, is a millwright, and foreman in a saw mill at Bemidji, Minnesota. Mrs. Cooper's parents went to Minnesota in 1856 and settled in Houston county, where they died some years ago, the date of the father's death being 1885. Mrs. Cooper came as a young woman from Minnesota to Iowa, and was soon afterward married here. She and Mr. Cooper have one son, Clinton E., born in Cerro Gordo county in 1882. He married Miss Ethel Page, at Plymouth, Iowa, and they have a little daughter, Alice Laura, born May 26, 1906.

Mr. Cooper's father voted the Republican ticket and was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in both politics and religion the son follows in the footsteps of the father. He is a member of the fraternal organization of Yeomen.

J. B. PATTERSON.

Among Clear Lake's progressive and enterprising business men must be numbered J. B. Patterson, a jewelry dealer who has established for himself a thriving trade and has the distinction of having been in business probably longer than any other jewelry dealer in Cerro Gordo county. Mr. Patterson was born at Homer in Cortland county, New York, June 30, 1856. His parents, U. H. and Amelia (Butler) Patterson, were also natives of the Empire state. Mr. Patterson claimed the advantages of the graded school education provided by his home town, and at the age of eighteen went to Ithaca, New York, where he began to acquire the knowledge of jewelry and watch making which has since served him in such good stead. After spending five years in Ithaca he went to Binghamton, New York, where he remained for several years longer. In 1882, attracted by the newer and richer resources of the west he came to Omaha, Nebraska, and his father following in 1884, they went into business together, this most satisfactory partnership being terminated by the death of the father in 1885.

In 1885 Mr. Patterson removed to Mason City, Iowa, and for something like a year was in the employ of a brother who resided there. In 1886 he made the step which was to be the most momentous one in his career, by his coming to Clear Lake, where

he bought out the business of James Clark, which he has ever since conducted. He has a fine stock of goods; built his present fine store building in 1896; and enjoys a large and growing patronage. In addition to this primary interest he is one of the organizers of the Clear Lake Independent Telephone Company and had charge of the first exchange when it consisted of but ten numbers. In politics Mr. Patterson gives his heart and hand to the Democratic party and enjoys the social benefit of membership in the Knights of Pythias. Mrs. Patterson is a member of the Congregational church and president of the Ladies' Aid Society.

Mr. Patterson was united in marriage, November 30, 1883, to Miss Eva C. Haines, who was born at Caledonia, Minnesota, March 28, 1858. They have one son, Leland R., who is at home.

WILLIAM SHANKS.

Prominent among the many enterprising men who brought to their calling good business methods and excellent judgment and were active and influential in developing the agricultural resources of Cerro Gordo county and promoting its industrial prosperity was William Shanks, late of Portland township, who was engaged in general farming for many years, meeting with well deserved success. Coming from substantial Scotch ancestry, he was born, January 3, 1847, in Glasgow, Scotland. His father, John Shanks, married first Mary Forie, who bore him twelve children, of whom but one, John Shanks, Jr., of California, a man of eighty years, is the sole survivor. Mrs. Mary Shanks died in Glasgow, Scotland, when William, her youngest child, was but nine months old. John Shanks married for his second wife, in 1850, Agnes Wiper, and subsequently emigrated with his family to the United States, locating in Chicago, Illinois, where a year later his wife died with cholera. His daughters afterwards kept house for the family, keeping the family together a number of years.

Beginning life for himself as a farm hand when but twelve years old, William Shanks worked in Cook county, Illinois, for seven years. Coming then with his brother John to Iowa he located at Charles City, Floyd county, and afterwards worked by the month for neighboring farmers until 1871. Marrying then, Mr. Shanks was engaged in farming on rented land for three years, in the meantime, with the assistance of his courageous wife who proved herself a helpmate in the true sense of the term, he saved some money. In 1874, investing their accumulations in land, Mr. Shanks bought two hundred and forty acres of raw prairie land on sections

twenty-four and twenty-five, Portland township, and immediately began its improvement. Erecting a good set of farm buildings, he carried on general farming and stock raising in an intelligent and skillful manner until his death, October 7, 1902. A man of integrity and honest endeavor, Mr. Shanks was held in the highest regard throughout the community, his many sterling traits of character winning him the respect of all with whom he came in contact. He was a Republican in politics, and filled various offices of trust. Although not a member of any church organization, he was a sincere Christian, believing in the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man.

Mr. Shanks married in 1871 Mary Ann Kay, of Charles City, Iowa. Her father, Edward Kay, was born and brought up in England, and there learned the tailor's trade. On March 23, 1848, he married Sarah Bellamy, who was born September 19, 1823, at Aston, England, and very soon afterward sailed for America. He lived first in Springfield, Wisconsin, from there coming in 1866 to Charles City, Iowa, but later removing to Nora Springs, where the death of Mr. Kay occurred in 1905, at the age of eighty-three years, and that of Mrs. Kay on June 21, 1894, at the age of seventy-two years.

Of the eight children born to Mr. and Mrs. Shanks, two have passed to the life beyond, Nellie M., dying at the age of three years, and Edna, when two years old. Six are still living, namely: William W., a well-to-do farmer of Portland township, married Vinnie Turner, and they have three children, Leonard B., Willard and Alice; Mary F., wife of William Taylor, of Spokane, Washington, has one child, Mildred M.; Margaret E., wife of Walter Wilcox, a farmer in Mason township, has two children, Lyman and Edna; Belle, wife of C. J. Hansuld, of Nora Springs, has three children, Velva, Edwin and George; Edward, of Mason City, married Fannie Allen; and Lester K., assists his mother in the management of the home farm. Mrs. Shanks is a woman of good business ability, and a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

HENRY GARLOCK.

There is no citizen of Clear Lake who has had more of the experiences of the pioneer or who can tell in more entertaining fashion of the wholesome early days and the struggles in bringing the wild country into subjugation than Henry Garlock, for many years a farmer in Cerro Gordo county, now retired and living in Clear Lake. Mr. Garlock is a man respected and popular in the

community and he has reared a family of ten children to good citizenship. He was born in Jefferson county, New York, October 22, 1839, and is the son of Joseph and Nancy (Horning) Garlock, both natives of Herkimer county, New York. The father died in 1882, at the age of sixty-nine, and the mother, in 1897, at the age of eighty-four. They were the parents of eleven children, six of whom are living, as follows: Varney, living in Clear Lake; Henry; John, a resident of Minnesota; Sarah, wife of Edward Butler, of White Water, Wisconsin; Matilda, wife of Joseph Vincent, of Milton Junction, Wisconsin; and David A., of Clear Lake, Iowa. In 1848 Mr. Garlock's father decided to leave his native state and to go west to examine for himself the wonderful undeveloped resources of which report had so much to say. He went from Sackett's Harbor to Buffalo and then to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in the latter place cutting ties for the first railroad built in that part of the state. He purchased a small farm within two miles of Milwaukee and cultivated this for a time, then removed to Rock county, Wisconsin, where he again devoted his energies to the tilling of the land. He finally went to Freeborn county, Minnesota, where he and his wife lived out the rest of their lives.

Henry Garlock was nine years of age when his parents went to the farm near Milwaukee, and here he passed his early boyhood. He remembers Milwaukee when it was no larger than Mason City is now. As he was forced by necessity to work out when a boy he received a somewhat meager schooling. He gives an interesting description of primitive school conditions. The house was of logs and the seats were logs split in half, with four holes bored in the round side into which sticks were driven for legs. The desks were slabs of wood put up slantwise against the wall all around the room. The teacher boarded around, as was the custom before free schools came into existence.

Mr. Garlock made a venture at independence early in life and began farming in Wisconsin, where he owned a small farm of sixty acres. In 1869 he sold out and came to Cerro Gordo county, locating in Grant township, where he purchased the southwest quarter of section 24 at four dollars an acre. It was absolutely unbroken country and Mr. Garlock made the first track leading from his place to Clear Lake. He erected a small house and for the first three years lived in it without its being lathed or plastered, despite the fact that an Iowa winter was as capable of sudden descents in temperature in those days as now. Mr. Garlock's wife proved a splendid pioneer's helpmeet, and among other things drove the breaking plow for him, teams of oxen being used. When

he built his first house he bought the lumber at Albert Lee, Minnesota. It was framed at Albert Lee and hauled to and placed on the foundation. It was fourteen by eighteen feet in dimension.

Later Mr. Garlock added one hundred and sixty acres to his holdings and expended such intelligent activities upon it that today it stands as one of the best improved farms in all Cerro Gordo county. His evergreen grove was quite the first set out in the locality. In the course of his career as an agriculturist Mr. Garlock has had many unique and sometimes unpleasant experiences. In the summer of 1907, when the corn was waist high and the oats budding out, a violent hail storm ruined everything and left the whole farm looking as if a steam roller had passed over it. The following year he had his barn and all his grain destroyed by wind, but has since rebuilt. He hauled his hay fifteen miles to Mason City upon one occasion and was offered the alternative either of selling it for two dollars and a half a ton or hauling it home again. In 1869 he sold wheat for forty cents a bushel. In 1870 he bought pork for two dollars and sixty cents a hundred pounds, and paid twenty-four per cent for money. From time to time Mr. Garlock has been engaged quite extensively as a stock raiser and feeder.

In May, 1907, Mr. Garlock gave up the active duties of an agriculturist and came to Clear Lake, where he purchased a house and remodeled it into a modern one. It has the additional attraction of an accompanying two and a half acres of land, and its owner has another house, with a similar grounds, which he rents. He has sold half of his three hundred and twenty acres to a son-in-law. Mr. Garlock has served as road and school officer in Grant township and has always stood for anything tending toward and betterment of the county. He is a well read man and keeps in touch of the vital questions of the day. He has raised a large family, none of whom have ever given him a moment's trouble, and he is proud of each and every one of them. Politically he has voted with both parties, for he tries to discover and to support the better man. He is a stockholder in the Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company. He is vice president of the Cerro Gordo County's Old Settler Society and is a member of the A. F. and A. M., No 250, of Clear Lake.

On March 6, 1863, Mr. Garlock was united in marriage in Janesville, Wisconsin, to Miss Hannah A. Hurd, born in Saratoga county, New York, June 21, 1844, daughter of Denois and Mary Ann (Gifford) Hurd, both natives of New York. They moved to Wisconsin in 1854, where they followed farming. They came to

Grant township this county, in 1895, and made their home with Mr. Garlock until their death, the father dying May 16, 1900, at eighty-four years of age, the mother on August 8, of the same year, at eighty-three years of age. Mrs. Garlock was educated in Wisconsin. Mr. and Mrs. Garlock came through from Wisconsin by team with three small children, journeying over poor roads. This union has been blessed by the birth of ten children, all of whom are living. They are: Sarah M., wife of Carter Dawson of Heckla, South Dakota; Dora N., wife of E. L. Moore, of Grant township; Henry, residing in Canada; Mary, wife of George Peck, of North Dakota; Maud wife of Ernest Bogardus of Chicago; Josephine wife of Ralph Wooster, of Texas; Sherman, living in Heckla, South Dakota; Bertha, wife of Wade Quarton, of Grant township; Reliance, wife of John Mellows, of Cedar Falls, Iowa; and Bernice, wife of Peter Knutson, of Clear Lake, Iowa.

EDWARD FESSENDEN.

Edward Fessenden, owner of one of the best improved farms in Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, is entitled to pioneer rank both by reason of birthright and emigration. To him belongs the distinction of being the first white child born in Sublette township, Lee county, Illinois, and he emigrated to his present location when this part of the country was nearly all wild prairie land.

Edward Fessenden was born April 4, 1839, a son of Thomas Fessenden and wife, both natives of New Hampshire, the former born in 1805, the latter, in 1804. The mother died at the age of sixty years, the father reached the ripe age of eighty-three. In their family were eleven children, of whom four are now living: George T., of Los Angeles, California; Edward; Caroline, widow of B. Dexter, of Monrovia, California; and Warren G., of Amboy, Illinois. Thomas Fessenden was a clock peddler in New Hampshire in early life, and later turned his attention to farming. In October, 1837, he left his New England home en route to Lee county, Illinois, and made the journey across the country in a wagon, bringing with him eight hundred dollars in cash. At that time he could have purchased the whole of Chicago for eight hundred dollars, as it consisted of only a few log cabins surrounded by a frog pond. He made his home in Lee county until 1870, when he sold out, retired from active life and went to Santa Barbara, California, where he passed the rest of life and died.

On his father's frontier farm in Lee county Edward Fessenden was reared and early became familiar with all kinds of farm



E. Hessenden

work as carried on in those days. A short time before reaching his majority he married and engaged in farming for himself, which he continued there for a few years, with the exception of time spent in the army. On August 13, 1862, he enlisted in Company E, Seventy-fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and with his command went to the front. Eight days after they crossed the Ohio river they were in the battle of Perryville, and out of the eight hundred men composing the regiment three hundred and fifty were lost. After a year's service in the army Mr. Fessenden, on account of illness, was transferred to guard duty, and became a member of what was known as the Veteran Reserve Corps, which was stationed at Elmira and Buffalo, New York, and later at Rock Island and Chicago. Mr. Fessenden's eldest brother, George T., enlisted in the same company at the same time he did, and served until the close of the war, during which time he never missed a day, was never on the sick list, and was never wounded.

After his discharge the subject of our sketch resumed farming in Illinois, and remained there until 1886, when he came to Iowa. That year he bought one hundred and sixty acres of his present farm in Lake township, Cerro Gordo county. Only fourteen acres had been broken, and the largest tree on the place, as he expresses it, was a wild rose bush. The following year he moved his family to the new home, landing here on the 12th of March. The household goods were brought by wagon from Mason City during a heavy snow storm—one of the severest in many years—and after the goods were unloaded and placed in the house the snow melted and the water had to be shoveled out. He had the pioneer spirit, however, and, undaunted, he went to work. Today he has two hundred and forty acres, one of the finest improved farms in the county, on which are over thirty varieties of trees and shrubs, some of which he brought here from California. For years he made a specialty of breeding fine cattle, his herd including many thoroughbred Durhams.

On February 26, 1860, Mr. Fessenden married Miss Harriet Dexter, who was born in Lee county, Illinois, April 7, 1843, and died March 17, 1898. Four children were born to them, of whom two are living: Francis D. and James H. The former, a resident of Cerro Gordo County, Iowa, married Miss Anna N. Pedely, and has four children: Manard C., Warren, Helen and Esther. James H., since his mother's death, has had charge of the home farm. He married Miss Margaret L. Hinkle, and they, too, have four children: Robert, Alta, Edward and Evelyn.

Mr. Fessenden has been a life long Republican, and is a mem-

ber of C. H. Huntley Post, G. A. R. In his religious views he has for years harmonized with the Congregational church, of which he is a worthy member and to which his good wife also belonged.

JOHN BISHOP.

Noteworthy among the more thriving and progressive agriculturists of Cerro Gordo county is John Bishop, who is here extensively engaged in general farming and stock raising, his estate of three hundred and fifty-four acres lying in sections, eleven, thirteen and fourteen, of Portland township. A portion of his estate is in the west half of the southeast quarter of section eleven; a part in the west half of the northeast quarter of section thirteen; a part in the east half of the northwest quarter of the same section; a part in the north half of the northwest quarter of section thirteen; while the home place is in the north half of the northeast quarter of section fourteen.

A son of Joseph Bishop, he was born, October 13, 1842, in Stark county, Ohio, of English ancestry. Joseph Bishop was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and his father came to this country from England. Joseph Bishop learned the trades of a cooper and mason, and these he followed, according to the season, in Pennsylvania until after his marriage. Moving then to Stark county, Ohio, he secured forty acres of land, and in addition to improving a good farm worked at his trades during the remainder of his active life, continuing his residence in Ohio until his death, in 1881, at the age of eighty-two years. He was a man of influence in the community, successful in business, and a member of the Lutheran church. His wife, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Weaver, died in 1845, at the early age of thirty-nine years, and he never married again. Of their eleven children, seven grew to years of maturity and two are living, one son, Joseph, being a resident of Akron, Ohio; and John.

Brought up on the farm in Stark county, Ohio, John Bishop received but limited educational advantages, although he was well drilled in the various branches of agriculture. During the Civil war he served nine months in Company I, Seventy-Sixth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, taking part in many engagements of importance. Migrating to Illinois in 1865, he was for sometime employed as a farm laborer in Plainfield, Will county. Industrious and thrifty, he accumulated some money and on March 23, 1870, accompanied by Mr. M. E. Bitterman, he arrived in Cerro Gordo county, and has since been actively and successfully engaged in

farming and stock raising, making a specialty of raising a fine grade of Short-Horn cattle and Poland China hogs.

Mr. Bishop married, in 1872, Lucinda Spotts, who was born in Summitt county, Ohio, and came to Cerro Gordo county in November, 1871. Eleven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Bishop, namely: Nathaniel J., who served as a member of Company D, Seventh California Volunteer Infantry, in the Spanish war, is a farmer in Washington, on the Puget Sound, and is married and has two children; Frank, engaged in farming near Mabton, Klickitat county, Washington, is married, and has a son and a daughter; Alice, who married Hiram L. Weaver, died in Summitt county, Ohio, in February, 1905, leaving two children, Irving and Grace, whom Mr. and Mrs. Bishop kindly cared for for five years; Ed, is a very successful wheat grower in Lincoln county, Washington; Mary, wife of K. L. Daily, of Chicago, Illinois, has three children; Laura, is living at home; Arthur, is engaged in farming in Klickitat county, Washington; Lloyd, is at Roundup, Montana, a rancher; Jay, Glenn and Blaine at home.

Politically Mr. Bishop has ever been a true supporter of the principles of the Republican party, and has been influential in local affairs. Mrs. Bishop is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. She is a woman of ability, and has well assisted her husband in all the cares and burdens of life, proving herself a true helpmate.

A. D. KERR.

A man well known in Clear Lake and its environs is A. D. Kerr, a retired farmer and stock raiser who until recently operated in a successful manner a tract of four hundred and forty acres in Mt. Vernon township, and who is now enjoying the fruits of his previous industry. Mr. Kerr was born October 8, 1836, in Canada, on the shore of Lake Erie. He was the son of Castle and Dorothy (Meagher) Kerr, the former a native of Argyleshire, Scotland, and the latter an American, her birth having occurred at Crown Point, New York. The father died in 1859, at the age of sixty-three years, and the mother's demise was an event of the following year, her age being forty-six years. Two children were born to this marriage, Mr. Kerr being the only one surviving. There were, however, seven children by the father's former marriage. Mr. Kerr's father was only ten years of age when his parents came from Scotland to America. They located in Nova Scotia, where he grew

to manhood and with the exception of a few years when he followed the sea he was engaged in farming here until the time of his death.

Mr. Kerr was reared on the farm and occupied a desk in the district school as many months out of the year as his assistance in the agricultural duties could be dispensed with. In 1863 he left the parental roof and started forth to make his own fortunes in the world. He was successful in accumulating some capital and in 1863 moved to Green Lake, Wisconsin, where he purchased two hundred and forty acres of land. This he operated until 1878, when he sold out and went to Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, locating in Mt. Vernon township. Having rented land for a time, he came to the conclusion that he liked the section sufficiently well to establish a permanent home there, and accordingly he bought four hundred and forty acres, which he proceeded to improve and bring to a high state of cultivation. He devoted a great deal of attention to stock raising and feeding, his specialties being Hereford cattle and Poland China hogs. In 1906 he retired and came to Clear Lake, where he has since made his home.

Mr. Kerr has given a life long allegiance to the Republican party and has held several public offices. In the fall of 1892 he was elected county supervisor and took his seat January 1, 1893, serving for six years on the board and serving thereon with O. J. Dennison. He has also held school offices and has been trustee and assessor of Mt. Vernon township.

Mr. Kerr was united in marriage, May 29, 1861, to Miss Sarah Gillette, a native of Canada, born in 1842, and dying in 1874. Of their five children four are living: Edward L., of Minnesota; George, of Minnesota; Elwin, of Clear Lake; and Frank, of St. Paul. In 1875 a second marriage was contracted, Miss Zora Bly, a native of New York state, becoming his wife. She died at Clear Lake, November 15, 1908, at the age of fifty-eight years. Mr. Kerr was married a third time, February 16, 1910, to Mrs. Retta (Noonan) Hill, widow of William Hill.

WILLIAM A. MEIER.

William A. Meier, a retired farmer of section 22, Falls township, Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, was born in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, August 21, 1854. He is a son of John C. and Lonisa (Happel) Meier, the former born in Germany, near the Rhine, and the latter also born in Germany, December 7, 1828. The father died at Nora Springs, Iowa, in 1900, and his wife died June 12, 1910 in Nora Springs. They were parents of eight children, of

whom all are living, namely: Elizabeth, wife of George Schmidt, of Nora Springs, Iowa; William A.; John C., of Nora Springs; Louisa, wife of Fred Helmer, of Plymouth, Iowa; Mary, unmarried, living at Nora Springs; Annie, wife of Peter Eby, of Mason City; Matilda, wife of Arthur Crall, of Kansas; and Fred, of Minnesota.

John C. Meier and his wife were married in Germany and came to the United States in 1850, spending seven weeks on the ocean voyage. They landed at New York, spent one year near Erie, Pennsylvania, then moved to Jo Daviess county, Illinois. Mr. Meier had been a school teacher in his native country and had a splendid education, but on account of poor health was obliged to give up his profession. The family drove from Illinois to Lancaster, Wisconsin, where they bought a small farm and operated it nineteen years. In 1874 the family came to Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, and purchased a farm of three hundred and twenty-seven acres in Portland township, where they lived until 1893, then retired to Nora Springs.

The boyhood of William A. Meier was spent on a farm and he received a good common school education. After his marriage he remained three years on the home farm, then moved to Aurora county, South Dakota, where he took up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres of raw land near White Lake, which he improved and worked eight years, then sold out and returned to Cerro Gordo county. Upon his return he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Falls township, erected modern buildings, made numerous other improvements, and lived there until 1908, when he purchased his present place of nineteen acres, where he has put up a comfortable residence and is preparing to give up active work. He has always been actively interested in public affairs and current issues and in politics has been a life long Republican. He served four years as school director and six years as justice of the peace. He is a member of the M. W. A. of Rock Falls and he and his wife belong to the Methodist Episcopal church at that place.

Mr. Meier was married, July 10, 1879, to Annie D. Wolff, born in Freeport, Illinois, April 15, 1861, daughter of Charles and Sophia (Schroeder) Wolff. Mr. Wolff was born in Prysken, Prussia, February 14, 1822, and died at Rockford, Iowa, at the age of seventy-four years. His wife died in 1864, at Freeport, Illinois, at the age of thirty-five years. They were parents of four children. Mr. Wolff and his wife emigrated to the United States and passed through Chicago when it was only a village, locating at Freeport, Illinois, where he followed his trade of wagon maker.

In 1869 he removed to Charles City, Iowa, and later located in Rockford, Iowa, where his death occurred. Mr. Wolff married for his second wife Annie Vogle, a native of Germany, who died at Charles City, in 1903, aged seventy-two years. By his second marriage Mr. Wolff had three children, of whom but one survives. Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Meier, namely: Mary E., wife of William Oleson, of Rock Falls, Iowa; Laura M., at home; and Ester L., who died at fifteen years of age.

GEORGE E. LYMAN.

It would be difficult to find in the length and breadth of the land a man who possesses a greater number of interesting pioneer experiences or who is more truly an American in every sense of the word, than George E. Lyman. After a varied and successful life as an agriculturist he is now retired and enjoying the fruits of his previous industry. Mr. Lyman was born in Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania, September 18, 1828, his parents being Samuel and Eunice (Earl) Lyman. The former was born in the Blue Mountains in Vermont January 26, 1796, and died in Braintrim, Bradford county, Pennsylvania, in 1867. The mother was also an easterner by birth, and died in Washington township, Wyoming county, Pennsylvania, September 14, 1861, at the age of sixty-three. The father answered to the triple calling of farmer, shoemaker and Methodist preacher, pursuing his several activities in Susquehanna and Wyoming counties. The Lymans adhered to the pioneer custom of large families and were the parents of twelve children, of whom but three are now living; the subject of this biography; the Rev. Gideon C. Lyman of Scranton, Pennsylvania; and Joseph, residing at Binghamton, New York.

George E. Lyman attended the common schools of Pennsylvania and afterward was enrolled for a while at a select school. He remained under the parental roof until his marriage in 1850. During the first year of his married life Mr. Lyman taught school in Braintrim, Pennsylvania, and the following year moved to a farm in Wyoming county which he had purchased. The house was a log one, located in the woods. Mr. Lyman cleared and improved the place and lived upon it about four years, when he sold it and came to Dixon, Illinois, the year being 1855. The trip was made by the way of what is now known as Rochelle, and from that place they drove to Dixon. They bought an improved a farm in its vicinity and remained upon it for about a year. But while at Dixon Mr. Lyman entered six hundred and eighty acres in Geneseo

township, Cerro Gordo county, which was secured for the most part with government land warrant. After entering the land Mr. and Mrs. Lyman sold their farm at Dixon and returned to Pennsylvania where he followed blacksmithing about three years and then took charge of the farm of Mrs. Lyman's mother, Mrs. Kintner, near Dixon, Illinois, Mr. Kintner having died in 1856. Two years later they returned to Dixon and remained for a year upon the farm which they had previously owned.

In 1860 the Lymans took up their residence upon their new claim. In February Mr. Lyman drove through from Dixon to Geneseo township with a load of household goods. There were as yet no buildings there, but about one a mile away a neighbor had built a log house and he lived there until joined by his wife in April. Both of them continued to live with the neighbor until October, when a frame house of their own, sixteen by twenty-four, had been completed, and they moved in. Conditions were primitive and the country roundabout very sparsely settled. There were only two houses between their farm and Mason City, eighteen miles away, and in 1860 but five families resided in the township. Grain had to be taken to Cedar Falls, Iowa, about fifty miles away, and it took a number of days to make the trip. Religious meetings were held first in Mr. Lyman's home and later in the school house, and the settlers came from miles about to attend. The land was of course all unbroken prairie and Mr. Lyman began at once to break the sod. The first year he raised corn, wheat, oats and potatoes on the land which he had himself broken. There were a great many wolves, and much game, such as deer, wild geese and ducks in large quantities. The latter destroyed the corn, which was a serious calamity.

The rebellion broke out and in 1863 Mr. Lyman enlisted in Company L, of the Fourth Iowa Volunteer Cavalry. After being for some time in camp in Davenport his company joined the regiment and engaged in barrack building. He saw considerable active service and remained until the mustering out of the troops at the close of the war. During his military service Mrs. Lyman remained upon the farm with her five children. After the return of peace Mr. Lyman went back to work upon the farm, which he reduced in size by the sale of two hundred and fifty acres. He enlarged the house and built good barns. In 1896 they decided to give up the management of the farm and accordingly removed to Rockwell. In 1902 their present beautiful residence was erected and within its walls they have ever since made their home.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Lyman took place October 6,

1850, the wife's maiden name being Sarah E. Kintner. She was born in Monroe county, Pennsylvania, October 9, 1834, her parents being William and Susan (Heller) Kintner, also natives of Pennsylvania. They were married in the Keystone state and came to Dixon, Illinois, in 1850, the father's death occurring six years later. The mother continued to live in the vicinity of Dixon until her death, March 28, 1899, she having attained to the great age of ninety-three years and six months. She was the mother of thirteen children, of whom six are now living. She was a remarkable woman and her mind was clear and active to the time of her death. Mrs. Lyman, her daughter, shared in her capability, spinning the linen for her own tableclothes and towels and weaving her own carpets. Seven children were born to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Lyman. Those still living are: Lucretia Ann, wife of George Felthous, of Rockwell; Mary Elmira, wife of C. W. Harris, of Rockwell; William Eddie, also of that town; and Lena L., wife of William B. Brnce, of Rockwell. Myron W., died at the age of four years; Eunice, at the age of six weeks; and Elma Leona, at the age of thirty-five years.

Mr. Lyman was originally a Whig and became a Republican upon the organization of that party, and has ever since voted that ticket. He has served as justice of the peace and township clerk and in numerous school offices while upon the farm in Geneseo township. He and his wife have been faithful members of the Methodist church since before their marriage, and enjoy the esteem of all those who know them.

The families living in Geneseo township at the time of their coming were the Hunts, the Rogers, the Whitesells, the Kettells and the Goheens. Mr. and Mrs. Lyman celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of their marriage on October 6, 1910.

MANIES E. BITTERMAN.

Manies E. Bitterman, a prominent farmer of Portland township, Cerro Gordo county, takes an active interest in public affairs and has held several local offices. Mr. Bitterman was born in Canton, Ohio, August 27, 1843, son of Frederick and Margaret (Bair) Bitterman. The father was born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in 1820, and at the time of his death, in 1847, was a school teacher in Canton, Ohio. Mrs. Bitterman was born in Stark county, Ohio, in 1824, and died in 1903. They had but two children, of whom Manies is the only one surviving. After Mr. Bitterman's death his widow married Samuel Spotts, by whom she had three children,

namely: Abraham, of Portland township; Mary, wife of Levi Hendrickson, of Santa Anna, California; and Samuel, of Kansas City, Missouri. Mr. Spotts now lives in Pasadena, California. He was born in Stark county, Ohio, in September, 1822. The Spotts family moved from Ohio to Will county, Illinois, in the sixties, and in the spring of 1872 located in section 15, Portland township, Cerro Gordo county, on wild land.

When he was but four years of age Manies Bitterman lost his father, and when he was but twelve years old he had to begin to work for his living. He worked at anything he could find until 1861; when he moved to Lockport, Illinois, remaining in that vicinity for some years. During the war he bought and shipped hay and became successful in this business. In 1867 he engaged in farming near Plainfield, Illinois, and continued there until March, 1870, when he located on eighty acres of land in section 11, Portland township, part of his present farm, having purchased this land some fifteen years prior. He erected buildings and began to make improvements, adding to his possessions from time to time and becoming very successful. All the improvements have been made by him, even to setting out the trees, and at one time he owned two hundred and eighty acres. At present he has two hundred acres, in the homestead and eighty acres in section 13, this township, all under cultivation, and which for the last ten years his youngest son has operated. He has always paid special attention to stock raising and feeding. He has always shown good judgment in the conduct of his affairs and has paid close attention to every detail of his work.

In February, 1865, Mr. Bitterman married, at Lockport, Illinois, Sarah Hintzman, who was born in Center county, Pennsylvania, in November, 1843, and they became the parents of six children, namely: Calvin, of Portland township; Edward, also of Portland township; Jennie, wife of William Allen, of Mason City; Trullie, wife of J. Shulta; Mary, wife of Milton Forbes, of North Platte, Nebraska; and Clinton, operating the home farm.

For the past thirty-eight years Mr. Bitterman has served as township treasurer, and has been township trustee eighteen years. He served one year as assessor and has also been school director and road superintendent. Mr. Bitterman is highly esteemed in the vicinity of his home and his fellow citizens have delighted to show him honor. He served in 1892-94 as a member of the Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth General Assemblies of Iowa. He has always been a strong supporter of the Republican party and prominent in party counseils. He is a member of the M. W. A. of Nora

Springs. Mr. Bitterman is wholly a self-made man, for he started out when a boy without any means and has risen to a place of influence by his unaided efforts.

JOSEPH PEDELTY.

For many years actively and prosperously identified with the agricultural interests of Cerro Gordo county, Joseph Pedelty found both profit and pleasure as a general farmer, and having acquired a competency he is now enjoying a well earned leisure at his home in Mason City, living retired from active pursuits. He was born, July 9, 1846, at New Diggings, Wisconsin, a son of Peter and Mary (Alderson) Pedelty and brother of John Pedelty, in whose sketch, which may be found on another page of this volume, further parental and ancestral history is given.

Brought up on the home farm and educated in the rural schools of Wisconsin, Joseph Pedelty remained with his parents until March 17, 1869, when he came to Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, it being his first trip away from his home town. Buying one hundred and sixty acres of land that was in its primeval wildness in section thirty-six Lincoln township, he began the arduous task of reclaiming a farm. Fortune smiling on his efforts, Mr. Pedelty met with unbounded success, not only improving a substantial homestead, but becoming owner of three hundred and twenty acres of rich and productive land in Lincoln township, and a large tract of valuable land in the north. Giving up farming on March 1, 1896, Mr. Pedelty has since resided in Mason City, where he is highly respected for his integrity and sterling worth. He is a decided Republican in politics, and for fourteen consecutive years served as township treasurer.

Mr. Pedelty has been twice married. He married first, in 1869, Mattie Bryson, who was born, March 21, 1844, in Ireland, a daughter of James and Ann (Beatty) Bryson. Coming with his family to this country in 1854, Mr. Bryson located in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, where he was engaged in tilling the soil for about ten years. Moving then to Kansas, both he and his wife spent their remaining years in that state. They were the parents of eleven children, of whom one son, David Bryson, of Mason City, is the sole survivor. Mrs. Mattie (Bryson) Pedelty died March 17, 1905, leaving three children, namely: G. L., of Mason City; Anna M., wife of Francis Fessenden, of Lime Creek township; and J. M., of Mason City. Mr. Pedelty married for his second wife, October 9, 1906, Mrs. Lucy (Boles) Kelsey, who was born, July 2, 1862, in



F. E. McGlong.

Benton county, Iowa. By her marriage with her first husband, Albert W. Kelsey, Mrs. Pedelty has three children, namely: Frank V., of Douglas, Wyoming; Bert E., of Fairfield, Iowa; and Wilbur S., of Minnesota. Mr. and Mrs. Pedelty are held in high esteem throughout the community, and are valued members of the Congregational church.

FRANCIS E. McGLONE, M. D.

Doctor McGlone is a native of Iowa, having been born at Jesup, Buchanan county, February 2nd in the year 1870. His parents, Edward and Mary (Smith) McGlone left their homes in Ireland in early childhood, coming to the Province of Quebec, Canada, where they grew to the years of maturity and where they were united in marriage in 1847. Two years thereafter, lured by the inviting prospects of a future home of wealth and happiness, they came to Iowa and settled at Cascade, in Jones county. Here they resided until 1866, when they transferred their residence to the old homestead near Jesup, Iowa, where the worthy subject of this brief sketch first opened his eyes to the light of day.

Mr. Edward McGlone and his devoted wife possessed in generous measure the sterling honesty, the energy and perseverance characteristic of the best type of Iowa's pioneer citizens. With other thousands they literally blazed the pathway of civilization; they broke the virgin prairie, planted the seed, and made the desert to bloom even as the rose. Mr. McGlone with his family continued to reside at Jesup until 1890, in which year he moved to Independence, Iowa, where he died in the year 1901 at the venerable age of eighty-three years. Mrs. McGlone had preceeded him in death, having passed to the great beyond in 1874. Of the ten children born to them, two sons and six daughters are now living.

Dr. McGlone lived in the home where he was born until 1890, when he moved with his father to Independence, Iowa, and having enjoyed the privilege of a wholesome and elevating influence, the results of a careful training in a Christian home, to which was added the advantage of the local public schools, he entered the medical department of the University of Iowa. During his years of preparation for the practice of medicine, Dr. McGlone's application to his books is significant in view of his subsequent brilliant career. The foundation for a successful practice was laid deep and strong. He was graduated from the University of Iowa with the degree of Doctor of Medicine, in the year 1895. Rockwell, Iowa, was his first field. Here from the beginning of his practice

he won the confidence of the laity, and the respect of his fellow practitioners, and here he continued to reside until 1903.

On September 12, 1899, Dr. McGlone was united in marriage with Miss Annie A. Dougherty, of Rockwell, to which union two children were born, Mary Dorothy now nine years and Frances Evelyn eight years of age. The married life of Dr. and Mrs. McGlone was severed after a little more than four years by the mournful and untimely death of the young wife and mother. Joyful, but fleeting years of wedded bliss were theirs, but years which have left a memory at whose shrine the bereaved husband and orphan children worship with a devotion that is as lasting as it is tender and true.

In 1905 Dr. McGlone transferred his residence to Mason City, where he now resides. In the more inviting field which Mason City affords his practice is large and prosperous and he is recognized as one of the leading physicians and skillful surgeons of northern Iowa.

To this store of professional knowledge acquired during his student days at the University of Iowa, Dr. McGlone has added from year to year, thus keeping well in hand the modern methods and ethical practices of the high class physician. He has repeatedly fortified himself in this regard by efficient post-graduate work in Chicago, in the New York Polyclinic and the New York Post-Graduate School. He is a member of the American Medical Association, The Iowa State Medical Society, the Austin Flint-Cedar Valley Society, and The Cerro Gordo Medical Association. Of the last named society, Dr. McGlone holds the office of president. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Order of Foresters, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Modern Brotherhood of America.

The confidence and respect of a large circle of patrons, friends and acquaintances are his in generous measure, while it is his also to be held in highest esteem as a representative citizen by every one in his community.

R. W. HEMMING.

A man who enjoys a wide acquaintance in this part of Iowa, his business taking him not only over Cerro Gordo county, but over Franklin county as well, is R. W. Hemming, farmer and auctioneer. He was born in Seneca county, Ohio, April 1, 1855, his parents being G. W. Hemming and Lucinda (Roller) Hemming. The father was a Pennsylvanian, but removed to Seneca county when

about eleven years of age. His father had been a farmer and he followed in the paternal footsteps in the matter of a vocation. He continued farming for a short time after his marriage at the age of twenty-four years, and then for five years engaged as traveling salesman for a dry goods firm in Cincinnati, Ohio. In November, 1861, he decided to go back to his old calling and he and his wife and six children drove thorough to Old Chapin, Franklin county, Iowa, where they remained until the following spring. They then went on to Shobe's Grove where the father had bought eighty acres of wild prairie land. The family lived for four years in a log house on an adjoining farm, but in 1865 the father built a log house on his own farm and to this the family removed.

Conditions in those pioneer days seem now almost incredible. The nearest market was Cedar Falls and that was sixty-five miles away, the trip requiring five days at the least and when the water was high, quite ten days. For the first seven or eight years they could go twenty-five miles to the Iowa river and not see a sod broken and the same is true of the country between their farm and Clear Lake, twenty-two miles away. They could live high when there was time to hunt, for geese, ducks, brant, crane and prairie chicken were numberless. A few deer and occasionally a stray buffalo wandered near, while the prairie wolves were thick. In 1867 the father purchased an additional forty acres, paying for the whole just one hundred dollars. His was a strenuous existence, attempting to subdue the wild country, breaking the sod, fencing and making other improvements. In 1884 he sold the old homestead and bought forty acres in Richland township, Franklin county, upon which he moved and there resided until his death, which occurred in 1892 at the age of seventy-two years. The mother was born in Ohio and died in Cerro Gordo county in April, 1903.

Mr. Hemming was the fourth of nine children, the others being: Emily, became the wife of John Cannam, of Springville, Utah; Irene, married James Cunning and died when about forty-six years of age; Madison is now living in Ottawa, Kansas; Richard, was killed in a railroad accident in Texas, being at the time in the employ of the government for which he bought saddle horses and beef cattle; Albert, is at present a resident of Pleasant Valley township, Cerro Gordo county; Aldie, is the wife of Hugh Caldwell of Lockwood, Dade county, Missouri; the two youngest died in infancy. The mother was a member of the Methodist church. In political principles the father was a Democrat.

R. W. Hemming was educated in the public schools of Franklin county and continued to reside upon the old homestead until he

became of age. He then set out for himself and went to Grundy county where he worked for eighteen months on the George Wells farm. Returning to Franklin county he worked out breaking prairie with teams. When twenty-four he satisfied his ambition to become a land owner, buying eighty acres of wild land in Grimes township, Cerro Gordo county, for five dollars an acre. He broke the sod and for two years rented it to a tenant. After his marriage in 1882 he and his wife lived on this place for two years. In 1883 he bought ten acres upon which his present home is situated, the house being built in 1884, when he immediately moved into it. In 1886 he sold his original eighty acres in Grimes township. In 1892 he purchased eighty acres of improved land in section 23 and in 1894 eighty acres more in the same section, making in all one hundred and seventy acres in Cerro Gordo county which he can call his own. In addition he owns a half interest in one hundred and sixty acres in Edmonds county, South Dakota, and one hundred and sixty acres in Geneseo township. For the past four years he has rented his farm. For fourteen years he has engaged in the auctioneering business, his sales taking him over Cerro Gordo and Franklin counties. He is a Republican and for fourteen years has been a member of the school board. He is a member of the I. O. O. F. of Rockwell and both he and his wife are members of the Baptist church.

Mr. Hemming was married April 8, 1882, to Miss Bertha Geer, a native of Henry county, Illinois, and a daughter of Silas and Rebecca (Moore) Geer. They came to Geneseo township, Cerro Gordo county in 1873, the father buying a small place and working at his trade of stone mason during the rest of his life. He died in April, 1899, and his wife in August, 1905. Mrs. Hemming was the sixth in a family of seven children, her brothers and sisters being as follows: Lavinia is the widow of William Foster, of Mason City; Delia is the wife of Harmon Dills, of Manley; Loretta is the wife of Lee Bugher of Rockford, Iowa; Barton resides in Rockwell; Effie married John Leeh and lives in Mason City; and Kate is the wife of Oscar Shindall. Mr. and Mrs. Geer were members of the Christian church and the father was a Republican.

Four children have been born to the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Hemming. Harvey, who is a farmer in South Dakota married Edith Wilson and they have one son; Coy is a clerk in the Farmers' Co-operative store of Rockwell; Lola is in attendance at the Rockwell high school from which she will be graduated in 1911; George is also in school at Rockwell.

WILLIS G. C. BAGLEY.

A man of energy and ability, industrious, persevering and painstaking, Willis G. C. Bagley is well known throughout Mason City as cashier of the First National Bank, with which he has been connected for nearly a score of years. Entering the institution in a minor capacity, he has worked his way steadily and rapidly upward until assuming his present position of responsibility and trust, his advance being the result entirely of his own honest and persistent efforts. A son of the late Shepherd S. Bagley, he was born, October 29, 1873, in Rock county, Wisconsin, but was reared and educated in Mason City.

Coming from honored New England ancestry, Shepherd S. Bagley was born, in 1839, in Maine. Possessing the spirit of restlessness characteristic of the American race, even in his early days, he migrated when young to the newer state of Wisconsin, and after his marriage embarked in business as a merchant in Cainville, a village named in honor of his father-in-law, Seth Cain. Coming in 1877 with his family to Iowa, he engaged in the grocery business as senior member of the firm of Bagley & Shockley, subsequently conducting the business alone for a time. He purchased an interest in a marble shop, with which he was connected. Later he was again engaged in the grocery business, becoming connected with the firm of Purdy, McGregor & Company. After the death of his wife, he disposed of his interests in Mason City, and moved to St. Paul, Minnesota, where he was a resident until his death, in 1904, at the age of sixty-seven years, the last few years of his life having been an invalid. He married Louisa Cain, who was born in New York state, and died, in Mason City, Iowa, in 1896, aged fifty-five years. Six children blessed their union, of whom four are living, namely: Fred W., of St. Paul, Minnesota; W. S., of Waterloo, Iowa; C. A., of Denver, Colorado; and Willis G. C.

A lad of four summers when he came with his parents to Mason City, Willis G. C. Bagley was educated in the common and high schools. Leaving the high school in February, 1891, he became collector for the First National Bank, with which he has since been associated, having filled all of the intermediate positions up to cashier, the position to which he was elected in 1908, and which he has since held. Holding this office of great trust and responsibility with one of the strongest institutions of the kind in northern Iowa, Mr. Bagley is well worthy the title of a self-made man, and eminently deserves the success that he has gained in the business world.

Mr. Bagley married, May 15, 1895, Winifred Bogardns, who was born in Mason City, Iowa, August 31, 1874, and they are the parents of two children, Margaret L. and Burton B.

Politically Mr. Bagley is a steadfast Republican; and religiously he is a member, and a trustee and the treasurer, of the Methodist Episcopal church, to which Mrs. Bagley also belongs.

Mr. Bagley is active and prominent in many of the leading fraternal organizations of northern Iowa, belonging to Mason City Lodge, No. 375, B. P. O. E.; Cerro Gordo Lodge, No. 70, K. of P.; Benevolence Lodge, No. 145, A. F. and A. M.; Benevolence Chapter, No. 46, R. A. M.; Antioch Commandery, No. 43, K. T.; Midland Lodge, No. 226, M. B. A.; Wileox Camp, No. 709, M. W. A.; Cerro Gordo Tent, No. 53, K. O. T. M.; and Iowa Division, Post A. T. P. A.

MAX A. GORMAN.

A skilled mechanic, and a practical electrician, Max A. Gorman, superintendent of the People's Gas Company, at Mason City is filling the responsible position which he occupies with credit to himself, and acceptably to the numerous patrons of the company. A native of Iowa, he was born, July 19, 1872, in Butler county, coming from pure Irish ancestry.

His father, Michael Gorman, was born in county Tyrone, Ireland, in 1820, and was there reared. Coming to the United States, the land of golden opportunities, in 1840, he followed his trade of a leather dresser in Newark, New Jersey, for about ten years, in the meantime marrying. In 1850 he came with his bride to Clinton county, Iowa, where he bought one hundred and sixty acres of land, on which he lived five years. Selling out, he removed in 1855 to Butler county, Iowa, purchased a small tract of raw land, and immediately began the improvement of a homestead. Meeting with eminent success as an agriculturist, he added more land by purchase to his farm, increasing its size to four hundred and thirty-two acres. Disposing of his interests in Butler county in 1896, he moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he invested his money in residential property, and was there a resident until his death, in September, 1907. His wife, whose maiden name was Mary Ann O'Donnell, was born in county Donegal, Ireland, in 1822, and died in Butler county, Iowa, May 9, 1890. Of the ten children born of their union, five are living, as follows: Mary A., wife of Ed P. Munghay, of Minneapolis; Winifred, of Minneapolis; J. J., of Mason City, Iowa; Max A.; and Mrs. J. A. Bishop, of Spokane, Washington.

Growing to manhood on the home farm, Max A. Gorman received his preliminary education in the district schools of Butler county, after which he entered the Curtis Business College at St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1895 being graduated from its commercial department. He was afterwards assistant in a plumber's establishment in that city for about a year, subsequently being employed in the electrical department of the Economy Steamboat Company of St. Paul for three years. In 1902 and 1903 Mr. Gorman did construction work for the Western Union Telegraph Company, the following two years being in the employ of the Edison Company and the John Gorman Company. Coming to Mason City in 1906, Mr. Gorman accepted his present position as superintendent of the People's Gas and Electric Company, which under his management is in a most prosperous condition. He has been exceedingly successful in business, and in addition to other property owns a fourth interest in the Clark Electric Meter Company of Chicago.

Mr. Gorman married, January 18, 1905, Caroline M. Berlin, who was born at Rock Falls, Iowa, November 29, 1875, and into their pleasant household three children have been born, namely: Charlotte, born February 26, 1906; Margaretta, born September 4, 1908; and Dorothy Elizabeth, born May 25, 1910. Fraternally Mr. Gorman is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks; of the Modern Woodmen of America; and of the Modern Brotherhood of America. In politics he is independent, voting according to the dictates of his conscience for the best men and measures. Mr. Gorman is noted as an athlete. He is the undefeated amateur champion wrestler of the northwest, winning a medal and the title in St. Paul in 1890 from James Harbart of Duluth, Minnesota.

HENRY S. GRADY.

Henry S. Grady a representative member of Cerro Gordo country's agricultural class and one whose sons are following in the paternal footsteps and giving an intelligent and enlightened consideration to the details of their calling, is Henry S. Grady, whose well improved farm with its attractive dwelling and handsome groves and orchards is situated in section 1, Dougherty township. Mr. Grady was born at Owen Sound, Canada, October 10, 1851, his parents being Thomas and Rebecca (Stevens) Grady. Both parents were natives of Nova Scotia, the father having been born at Halifax, July 4, 1813, the mother March 6, 1823. They were married in 1844 and in 1850 removed to Owen Sound. Twenty

years later they came to Carroll county, Illinois, and engaged in farming, following this occupation there until their deaths, the father's occurring December 10, 1891, and the mother's November 4, 1908. They were the parents of ten children, the following eight of whom are living: John W., of Owen Sound, Canada; James G., of Goldfield, Nevada; Henry S.; Thomas, a resident of Moline, Illinois; Robert, whose home is in St. Paul, Minnesota; Annie (single) of Rock Island, Illinois; Lucy, wife of George S. Senneff, of Paton, Colorado; and Elizabeth, wife of George Woalard, of Beloit, Wisconsin. The father adopted the agricultural calling only after coming to Carroll county, having previously for some years been a sailor and master of a ship.

At the age of fifteen Mr. Grady set forth like the hero in the tales of adventure to seek his fortunes. He may have inherited some liking for the sea—at any rate he went to work on the Great Lakes as a sailor and for four years pursued this calling. Later he spent some time in the pineryes of the north as a lumber jack. In June, 1871, shortly after the removal of his immediate relatives to Illinois, he joined them and remained under the home roof until 1875 when he came on to Cerro Gordo county. He worked out for a year and then rented land for another and in 1881 became an independent land owner by the purchase of one hundred and twenty three acres in section 1, Dougherty township, this being wild land which Mr. Grady proceeded to put into tillable condition. He is now the owner of two hundred and eight acres of land which he operates with the aid of his sons. He follows general farming in the main, but is nevertheless interested in cattle raising and has a fine herd of full blooded registered Poland China hogs, a herd of full blooded Short-Horn cattle and some registered sheep.

Mr. Grady is a whole hearted Republican and there is no important issue of the day which does not have his attention. He has held office, having been at different times, township trustee, school director and school treasurer. He is a stock holder in the Rockford Farmers' Co-operative Society and for nine years has been a director. He and his family are members of the Congregational church and supporters of its good causes.

On March 31, 1879, Mr. Grady was united in marriage to Miss Nathalia Dawson, born in Belvidere, Illinois, March 11, 1858. She is a daughter of William and Elizabeth (Sizer) Dawson, both natives of Lincolnshire, England. They were married January 3, 1851, and came to the United States in 1854. The father was a carpenter by trade and had served an apprenticeship in his native country. In the year of his arrival here he located in Belvidere,

Illinois, and for two years worked at his trade. In 1876 he came west to Cerro Gordo county and purchased land in Dongherty township upon which he lived until his death. He was born November 17, 1825 and died in 1896. The mother died in Minnesota, February 18, 1905, at the age of seventy-six years. Mr. and Mrs. Grady are the parents of two fine sons, Harry Lee and Roy Bernard.

REV. FATHER JOHN JOSEPH CLUNE.

To the Rev. Father Clune, assistant pastor of the Sacred Heart church belongs the pleasant task of contributing to the spiritual and educational welfare of the community. He is one of the younger members of the clergy of the Catholic church, and is of promising attainments. He was born in Norwalk, Connecticut, in 1878, his parents being Thomas and Maria (Fallon) Clune, both natives of Ireland, who came to the United States with their parents. They were married in Norwalk and both of them lived there for the rest of their lives. The father's demise occurred when Father Clune was an infant but a year and ten months old, he being the youngest of three children.

Father Clune was graduated from the parochial school at Norwalk and afterward attended St. Bonaventure College at Allegany, New York. He finished there and was ordained to the Catholic ministry in December, 1903, and in the following January undertook his first charge as assistant pastor. It was after his arrival that the church was consumed by fire, and Father Clune assisted greatly in its reconstruction.

The church at Rockwell and the mission at Swaledale together comprise from one hundred and ten to one hundred and fifteen families. The average attendance at the Sacred Heart Academy is about one hundred and twenty-five. After being graduated from this institution the students are qualified for admission to the freshman class of the state university.

WILLARD A. BURNAP.

Willard A. Burnap inheriting in no small measure the sterling virtues of a long line of New England ancestors, Willard A. Burnap of Clear Lake, Cerro Gordo County, Iowa, holds a position of especial note among the valued and respected citizens of this section of the state. Patriotic and public spirited, he served his country nobly in her time of need, taking active part in the great

Civil war, and has since been identified with its business, educational and official interests. He was born, October 17, 1840, in Paxton, Worcester county, Massachusetts, where he was bred and educated. In 1857 he made his first appearance in Iowa, and has since considered this his home.

In July, 1861, not long after the surrender of Fort Sumter, Mr. Burnap enlisted in Company I, Second Iowa Cavalry, and served until the close of the conflict, his discharge recording the names of twenty-seven battles and skirmishes in which he was personally engaged. He served in every station in the ranks up to first sergeant, and was with his company on every march and in every fight until the fall of 1863. The following extract from the affidavit of Brigadier General Datus E. Coon best tells us of the subsequent service of Mr. Burnap, General Coon testifying as follows:

"That he was personally acquainted with Willard A. Burnap from the time of his enlistment in the spring of 1861 until his final discharge in the fall of 1865. That in the fall of 1863, owing to excessive duties, his health failed and he resigned his position, and soon after was taken to the field hospital at Collierville, Tennessee. That failing to recover his health, he was placed on detached duty at General Greerson's headquarters, (as chief clerk and in command of orderlies) where he served out his three years' term of service. That at my personal request he re-enlisted, and was detailed for duty at my headquarters, Second Brigade, Fifth Division, Cavalry Corps, M. D. M., and would have been commissioned (as captain of Company I) had his health proved sufficient for active field work."

Duly sworn to and signed by General Datus E. Coon, at Mason City, Iowa, on the eleventh day of November, 1891.

After leaving the service Mr. Burnap was for several years connected with the Bryant & Stratton Business Colleges of Chicago Illinois, and of Springfield, Illinois, as teacher and manager. In 1871, after his marriage, he settled at Forest City, Winnebago county, Iowa, and was there engaged in the land, law and loan business until about 1878, during one year of the time serving, by appointment, as county treasurer. Coming from there to Clear Lake, he purchased of George E. Frost the Clear Lake Bank, which he conducted for about two years. An act of his cashier at that time compelled Mr. Burnap to close the doors of the institution and ask for a receiver, into whose hands he placed all of his private property, (including his homestead) and paid every depositor of the bank in full within ninety days. (See Court Records)

Since that time Mr. Burnap was for four years manager of

the Business Exchange of Bryant & Stratton's Business College in Chicago; was for six years clerk of the district court of Cerro Gordo county, Iowa; and the remainder of the time has been engaged as a conductor of business classes for business men and as an expert accountant, making a specialty of settling with county officials.

Mr. Burnap has been director, vice president and twice president of the State Horticultural Society; also director, vice president and twice president of the Northeastern Iowa Horticultural Society. He has served as chancellor commander of Clear Lake Lodge, Knights of Pythias, and as captain of Mason City Uniformed Rank. For five years Mr. Burnap was president of Cerro Gordo County Farmers' Institute, and for two years was president of the Old Settlers' Association of Cerro Gordo and surrounding counties. He was also a member of Governor Newbold's staff, serving as aide de camp and receiving his commission as lieutenant colonel.

As a member of the Grand Army of the Republic Mr. Burnap was commander of the C. H. Huntley Post, of Mason City, and of the Tom Howard Post, of Clear Lake. He was likewise aide de camp and inspector general on the National Commander's staff, and at the present time is a member of the Council of Administration for the Department of Iowa. He has served as president of the North Iowa Veteran Association, and as secretary and as president of his own regimental society, the Second Iowa Veteran Volunteer Cavalry.

Mr. Burnap married, March 20, 1871, in Chicago, Illinois, Mary E Mathews, and to them six children have been born, namely: Leta Marie, born January 20, 1872, married C. W. Foster; Willard Lathrop, born January 28, 1874, married May Merrill; Mary Elizabeth, born December 27, 1875, is the wife of Edward Dahlquist; Martha Babcock, born April 27, 1879, died April 8, 1882; Sherburne Mathews, born May 23, 1882, married Ada Harte, December 8, 1910; and John Wheeler, born August 31, 1884, died April 2, 1888.

WILLIAM A. GRUMMON.

Among those citizens who play a live part and a useful one in the affairs of the town and county must assuredly be numbered William A. Grummon, postmaster since 1897, editor of the Rockwell *Phonograph* and one of the advisory editors of this volume. He belongs to the town by birth as well as by life long residence. He was born here June 2, 1868, his parents being Nelson J. and

Romelia (Quackenboss) Grummon, a sketch of the former appearing in this history. He received his education in the Rockwell schools, finishing in the high school, and he devoted his youthful energies to the varied employments to be encountered upon his father's farm. In 1890 he entered the office of the Rockwell *Phonograph*, and under the efficient tutelage of the editor, Mr. W. L. McEwen, learned the printer's trade. On February 24, 1892, Mr. Grummon was united in marriage to the editor's daughter, Miss Florence M. McEwen, who was born in Floyd county, Iowa, August 9, 1869. Her parents were W. L. and Harriet (Rhinehart) McEwen. Her parents were married in the east about the year 1854 and came to Floyd county in 1856, owning and operating a farm there until 1886, in which year Mr. McEwen disposed of his land and came to Rockwell. In partnership with his son, Elmer Ellsworth, he purchased the Rockwell *Phonograph* and continued to conduct that paper until his death in March, 1904. The mother survived until the fall of 1909.

After his marriage Mr. Grummon purchased an interest in the paper, and owing to the poor health of Mr. McEwen he shortly after assumed its editorship. He has continued in that capacity until the present time, and has given great satisfaction to his readers, being a student of current matters and keeping abreast of the times. Mr. Grummon owns the *Phonograph* in partnership with E. E. McEwen. On July 1, 1897, Mr. Grummon was appointed postmaster, his commissions being issued by President McKinley and Roosevelt, and his present term of office to expire in the spring of 1912. He has always been active in his support of the Republican party. He and his wife belong to the Congregational church, and as to his fraternal connections he is a member of the I. O. O. F.

On October 31, 1903, the first Mrs. Grummon died, leaving besides her husband two young sons, Stuart N. and Paul W. On May 14, 1907, Mr. Grummon was married to Miss Mary E. Bruce, a daughter of Albert and Sarah (Blodgett) Bruce. Her father was a pioneer merchant of Rockwell, having established his first store here and serving on the county board of supervisors. They have one son, named Howard E.

MORRIS G. EVANS.

Morris G. Evans, locomotive engineer on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad, has been engaged in railroading since he was twenty-four years old, and for more than thirty years has pulled the throttle. Until 1879 Milwaukee was his headquarters,

then he came to Mason City, Iowa, which has since been his home, his present work being the hauling of passengers between Mason City and Mount McGregor. Mr. Evans resides with his family at No. 416 West Seventh street, where he built a handsome home.

He is a native of Monroe county, Pennsylvania, born in 1849. His earliest recollections, however, are of a cabin in Wisconsin, his parents, Abraham and Rebecca (Flight) Evans, having left their eastern home and came west in 1850, the year following his birth, making the journey across the country in primitive pioneer style, with a yoke of oxen and a span of mules, and reaching their objective point with a cash capital of only sixty cents. On this journey Abraham Evans was accompanied by two brothers and a brother-in-law, one of whom, Alexander Evans, remained in Wisconsin and improved a farm. About half way between Janesville and Madison, Abraham Evans secured title to half a section of land, built a cabin, and established his home, and there he lived for over forty years, the cabin in time giving place to a frame house. When they landed there game of all kinds was plentiful, including deer; and they lived in their wagon until they could cut logs for the cabin. Madison at that time was built of log houses and contained only about one hundred and fifty inhabitants. After he had established his home he helped to build a log school house, about half a mile distant, and became prominently identified with the best interests of the community. From the organization of the Republican party he was one of its staunch supporters, and in 1866-7 he represented his district in the Wisconsin state legislature. After about forty years spent on the farm he retired and moved to Madison, where he and his wife died, his death occurring in 1898, at the age of seventy-three years; hers in 1905, at the age of eighty-eight. Both were members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and he was for many years identified with the Masonic order. Of their four children, Joseph, a member of Company D, Seventh Wisconsin Infantry, was killed in the second battle of Bull Run; Theodore, a practicing physician of Madison, Wisconsin, received his education at Ann Arbor, Michigan, and Toronto, Canada; and Amy, wife of Albert Hawkins, resides at Madison, Wisconsin.

At Madison, Wisconsin, Morris G. Evans married Miss Ellen Collins, a native of Rochester, New York. When she was quite small her family moved to Wisconsin and settled at Hebron, from whence in 1858 they went to Dane county, where she was reared and educated. Mr. and Mrs. Evans have one daughter and one son: Etta B. and Claude T. The former, a graduate of the Mason City high school, is now a saleswoman, representing automobiles

in Milwaukee; the latter is engaged in the plumbing business at Mason City. He married Miss B. Vivian Duffy, of Dickinson, North Dakota. Mrs. Evans was a daughter of John and Priscilla (Sansom) Collins, natives of Devonshire, England, who came to America shortly after their marriage, settling in New York state, subsequently moving to Michigan and later to Wisconsin. Still later they went to Parker, South Dakota, and from there came to Clear Lake, Iowa, where the father died in 1896, at the age of sixty-eight years. The mother returned to Stoughton, Wisconsin, where she now resides with a daughter. In their family were four sons and two daughters: John O., a farmer, who died in Minnesota, December 8, 1908; Herman, of Stoughton, Wisconsin, is retired; Andrew, a contractor and builder of Tacoma, Washington; Mrs. Evans, wife of the subject of this sketch; Mrs. John Evans, of Stoughton, Wisconsin; and Wesley, of Clear Lake, Iowa. Mrs. Evans, like her husband, was reared a Methodist, and both are worthy members of that denomination. Mr. Evans, fraternally, is associated with the B. of L. E., Sanborn Lodge, No. 117, also with the I. O. O. F., and Mrs. Evans belongs to the Rebekahs.

FRED MAHANNAH.

Of the various professions and pursuits to which men devote their time and energies, not one is of more vital importance than that which deals with the education of the child. Iowa is particularly fortunate in having among her educators men who have attained the front rank in their professional labors, noteworthy among the number being Fred Mahannah, county superintendent of the schools of Cerro Gordo county. A man of broad intellectuality, energetic and progressive, he is an enthusiastic worker and has greatly advanced the status of the schools under his control since assuming his present position. A native born citizen of Iowa, his birth occurred August 18, 1874, at North English Iowa county.

His father, E. C. Mahannah, was born in 1834 in Ohio, and was there brought up and educated. Coming with his family to Iowa at a comparatively early day, he settled at North English, where he bought land and was actively engaged in agricultural pursuits until his death, in 1900. His wife, whose maiden name was Matilda Meeker, was born in 1845 in New York state, and is now living at North English, Iowa. Nine children were born to them, six of whom are living, as follows: Wilford, of Fargo, North

Dakota; Elmer, of Harper, Kansas; Virtie, wife of A. McKinstry of North English, Iowa; Fred, with whom this sketch is chiefly concerned; Lew, of Keswick, Iowa; and Albert twin brother of Lew, of North English.

Acquiring the rudiments of his future education in the district schools, Fred Mahannah completed the full course of study in the North English high school with the class of 1893, and five years later was graduated from Cornell College. Beginning his professional career in the country, he taught one term in a district school, receiving twenty dollars a month for his services and gaining in the meantime experience of great value. He was subsequently assistant principal at the North English high school two years, from there coming—in the fall of 1901—to Cerro Gordo county to accept a position as principal of the Rockwell schools. Meeting with excellent success in that capacity, Mr. Mahannah was connected with the Rockwell schools five full years, retiring from the principalship in the fall of 1906 to assume his present position as county superintendent of schools, an office to which he was re-elected in 1908, and again in the fall of 1910 he was re-elected for a third term.

At the fifty-sixth annual session of the Iowa State Teachers' Association held in Des Moines in November, 1910, Mr. Mahannah was elected president for the ensuing year and was also appointed as a member of a Special Legislative Committee for the State Association.

Mr. Mahannah is a man of strong individuality, brilliant in intellect and power, extremely earnest in purpose, and is popular alike with the pupils, the teaching force of the county, and with the patrons and friends of the public schools within his jurisdiction.

Mr. Mahannah married, July 10, 1901, Edith Gertrude Swaney who was born in Kellogg, Iowa, February 10, 1878. Mrs. Mahannah is a woman of culture and talent, a graduate of Grinnell College in the class of 1899, and now serving as deputy county superintendent of the Cerro Gordo county schools.

Politically Mr. Mahannah is a staunch Republican. Fraternally he belongs to Wileox Camp, No. 709, M. W. A. and to Cerro Gordo Lodge, No. 70, K. of P.

W. H. PEEDAN.

One of the progressive and popular business men of Mason City is W. H. Peedan, who is proprietor of the successful enterprise conducted under the title of the Mason City Rug Company. He has been a resident of this city since 1890 in which year he

became chief clerk in the clothing store conducted by W. E. Ensign. With this concern he continued to be identified until the following year when distinctive mark of the strong hold he had gained upon the popular esteem in the community was given in his election to the office of county recorder in which he continued to serve for three consecutive terms. After his retirement from this office Mr. Peedan purchased the *Daily Globe*, and later purchased the plant and business of the *Mason City Gazette* and effected the consolidation of the two papers under the present title of the *Globe-Gazette*. S. A. Narine was finally admitted to partnership in the business and later Mr. Peedan sold his interests to the firm of Muse & Couroy. While thus actively identified with journalistic enterprises Mr. Peedan was also the owner of a half interest in the Mason City Steam Laundry with the operation of which he continued to be identified for a period of twelve years, disposing of his interest therein in the autumn of 1906. His aggressive business instincts and constructive ability have always found profitable exemplification and for the past decade he has been identified with the manufacturing of rugs to which he has given practically his undivided attention since the autumn of 1906. He has a well equipped establishment. The business is conducted under the title of the Mason City Rug Company, as is noted in the opening paragraph of this sketch. The finely equipped factory is located in what is known as the Mill building, which was purchased by Mr. Peedan a number of years ago, and here are utilized four floors, each thirty by sixty feet in dimensions, and two wings, of one story each and respectively twenty-four by thirty-six and twenty-four by twenty-two feet in dimensions. The annual transactions of the company have grown from two thousand dollars to the noteworthy aggregate average of twenty thousand dollars and the business is one of the important contributions to the commercial and industrial prestige of Mason City and Cerro Gordo county. The trade of the concern ramifies throughout Iowa and also extends into the states of Kansas, North and South Dakota, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana and Minnesota. An efficient corps of traveling salesmen represent the company throughout its wide trade territory at special seasons. The mechanical equipment of the concern is of the most modern type and the factory is undoubtedly one of the best of its kind in the entire state. Mr. Peedan is a thoroughly practical, progressive and enterprising business man and he has shown a lively interest in supporting all measures and enterprises tending to advance the general welfare of the community. In politics he is a stanch Republican and he has



Frank G. Murphy

rendered effective service in behalf of the party cause. As already noted he served six years as county recorder but he has never been a candidate for other public offices than this. He is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias, Modern Woodmen of America and the Modern Brotherhood of America and is a member of the Christian church.

Mr. Peedan was born in Allamakee county, Iowa, on the 21st of October, 1860, and is a son of Capt. H. N. Peedan, who came to this state in the '50s and was numbered among the pioneers of the county mentioned. Captain Peedan was a captain in an Illinois regiment in the Civil war and for several years after the close of the same he continued his residence in Illinois. He finally removed to Arkansas where he had extensive lumber and mill interests. He is now living retired at Simpson, Texas, and is about seventy-five years of age at the time of this writing, in 1910. The subject of this sketch was fifteen years of age when he took up his residence in Cerro Gordo county and his success as a business man represents the diametrical results of his own efforts.

On the 12th of April, 1885, Mr. Peedan was united in marriage to Miss Hattie May Foster of Rockwell, Cerro Gordo county, where she was born and reared, being a member of one of the pioneer families of this county. She was summoned to the life eternal on the 22nd of March, 1906, and of the four children, two daughters, Bernice Estelle and Gail are deceased; Max, who is seventeen years of age (1910), is attending the public school of Mason City, as is also Lavinia, who is eleven years of age.

THOMAS McMANUS.

Thomas McManus has for a number of years been prominent in the affairs of Dougherty township and he was among those who organized the first successful farmer's co-operative society in Iowa. He is convinced that for the agriculturist to keep in touch with the best and most progressive ideas developed in his calling requires constant alertness. Mr. McManus owns two hundred and forty acres, in addition operates one hundred and sixty for a relative. He was born in county Fermanagh, Ireland, February 15, 1843, and his parents, Redmond and Mary (Murphy) McManus, were both natives of that county, the mother dying there in 1847 at the age of forty years. In November, 1862, the father and the children set out for the United States, landing on the 18th of that month at Philadelphia. For the four years following the father worked in the city, but in 1866 he concluded to try his fortunes in the agricul-

tural districts, and accordingly he went west to Winneshiek county, Iowa, where he rented a small farm. By the exercise of thrift he was enabled three years later to purchase one hundred and sixty acres of wild land in section 24, Dougherty township, to which he and the children removed in the following spring. The country was at that time very sparsely settled, there being but two houses between the father's place and Rockwell and but two between it and Marble Rock. The nearest railroad was at Charles City and the lumber used in erecting the first building upon the place was hauled from there. The father served as township trustee for a number of years. He was a member of the Catholic church. He died November 6, 1885, at the age of eighty-five years. Of his eight children three survive: Ellen, wife of Miles O'Dowd of Charles City; Thomas, of this review; and Mary who resides in Charles City.

Thomas McManus was reared on a farm in Ireland and thus received a practical training in the vocation he was to follow. He was nineteen when he came to Philadelphia and his first employment was in a woolen factory where cloth was made for the uniforms of the soldiers, the Civil war being then in progress. He afterward worked in a brick yard until the removal of the family to Winneshiek county where he assisted his father with the farming. When he first came to Cerro Gordo county he made his livelihood as farmer's hand. He at present owns the excellent property previously mentioned and operates a smaller farm for the children of a brother. He has improved his homestead in every way, erecting good buildings, and setting out fine groves and orchards. He does general farming and in addition raises cattle and hogs and owns a flock of sheep.

Mr. McManus was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Mulaney, born in Cook county, Illinois, in 1858, their union taking place November 4, 1890. To them have been born the following six children: Redmond, Alice, Dennis J., Thomas E., James and Agnes, all of whom are at home.

Although Mr. McManus' education was a limited one in his native country he has since rectified this deficiency and is particularly well read and well posted on the issues of the day. He was for eleven years director of the first successful farmers' co-operative society in Iowa which was organized in Rockwell. He is president of the Dougherty township Farmers' Co-operative Society and since its beginning has been very active in its affairs. He has traveled all over the middle west in attendance at conventions and meetings of various sorts and was a strenuous combatant in the

bitter fight the railroads and the big grain companies put up against the independent farmers. He was one of the prime movers in organizing the Farmers' Grain Dealers Association at Rockwell, November 4, 1904, and was chosen one of the directors, which office he has since held. Mr. McManus is a stanch defender of the policies and principles of the Democratic party and has served both as justice of the peace and school director and he was twice nominated by the Democratic party to represent them in the Iowa legislature. He and his family are communicants of St. Patrick's Catholic church at Dougherty.

SAMUEL B. DUTRO.

Samuel B. Dutro, general contractor and builder, also owner and operator of a planing mill and plant for manufacturing all kinds of interior finish, Mason City, Iowa, came here about 1895 and has been engaged in business at this place for the past fifteen years, employing steadily from ten to a dozen men. In 1908 he organized the Dutro Manufacturing Company for the manufacture and sale of a tool of which Mr. Dutro is the patentee, this tool being used by carpenters to hold sash and doors in place. The company was capitalized at \$12,500 and officered as follows: Dr. Charles L. Marston, president; Samuel B. Dutro, vice president; Alba Miller, secretary; and S. M. Grunland, treasurer. The plant is situated at 218 1-2 S. Main street.

Mr. Dutro is a native of Illinois. He was born just north of Wyandotte, in Bureau county, in 1860, son of S. M. and Caturah (Blaker) Dutro, natives of Ohio, the former of French descent and the latter of Irish, they having left the Buckeye state in 1849 and settled in Bureau county, Illinois, where the father was successfully engaged in farming and stock raising for a number of years. The last ten years of S. M. Dutro's life were spent with a son at Brooklyn, Iowa, where he died in 1904, at the age of eighty-two years, his wife having passed away some years ago in Illinois. In their family were six children, four sons and two daughters, now scattered and settled, as follows: J. S. Dutro, an auctioneer of Brooklyn, Iowa; M. I. Dutro, a locomotive engineer in California; C. E. Dutro, a pipe welder, of Kewanee, Illinois; Mrs. Allen, of Illinois; and Mrs. Beck, of Brooklyn, Iowa.

Samuel B. Dutro was reared in Bureau county, Illinois, where he received a high school education. Then he came to Iowa. At Creston, Union county, in the coach shops he learned the carpenter's trade. Later he was in the locomotive department of the

C. B. & Q. Railroad and still later, for two years, ran an engine. On resigning his position with the road, he engaged in contracting and building, and remained at Creston until 1895, when he became a resident of Mason City, where he has been very successful.

Mr. Dutro married, in Illinois, Miss Letta Hull, of Henry county, Illinois, she being a representative of an old family of that place. Their union has been blessed in the birth of three daughters and one son: Clare, wife of Lou Barrett, now of Deer Lodge, Montana; Wayne, in business with his father, and Letha and Edith, at home. Politically, Mr. Dutro is a Republican; socially, he affiliates with the I. O. O. F., both lodge and encampment.

RICHARD H. DE NEUT.

Richard H. De Neut, general contractor and builder, residing at 308 South Jefferson street, Mason City, Iowa, has been identified with this place since June, 1892. The first ten years of his residence here he worked as carpenter for M. E. Bushman, and the next seven for M. F. Huffman, and since then, for the past three years, he has been doing general contract work. In 1909, he built ten houses and three barns, including two houses for himself, one of which he rents, and the present year, 1910, his business has increased to such an extent that at times he has in his employ as many as twenty-five men.

Richard H. De Neut is a native of Grand Rapids, Michigan. He was born August 18, 1868, son of Jonathan Henry and Maria (Kamboldt) De Nent, the latter an adopted daughter of the late Judge Withy of Grand Rapids. Jonathan H. De Neut was born in Canada, of French-Canadian parents. He was by trade a cabinet maker, at which he worked up to the time of his death. He was accidentally killed, in the spring of 1873, at Grand Rapids. His widow survived him until February 21, 1892, at the age of fifty years, one month and twenty-one days.

Until he was twelve years old, Richard H. attended day school in Grand Rapids. Then he went to work, and practically from that time forward has made his own way in the world, supplementing his meager schooling by night study and reading. He learned his trade in Michigan. In 1882, he went to South Dakota, where he spent several years, in the threshing machine business, for a time being employed as engineer and later owning and operating a machine. In this he was successful. From South Dakota he came to Iowa, and settled at Mason City, where he has since resided.

In 1892, at Mason City, Mr. De Neut married Miss Lottie

Payne, of Cerro Gordo county. She was born at Burr Oak, Iowa, daughter of one of the pioneer residents of that part of the state. Mrs. De Neut died at Mason City, in 1898, leaving one child, Clair Whittier, born January 13, 1895. On November 9, 1899, Mr. De Neut married Miss Esther B. Tucker, a native of Bassett, Chickasaw county, Iowa, born in 1871, daughter of Joseph K. and Betsy (Warren) Tucker, early settlers of that place. Her father, born in 1845, in Green county, Mississippi, of English parents, has been a farmer all his life. He is a veteran of the Civil war; her mother, born in Tioga county, Pennsylvania, May 26, 1844, died November 12, 1882. They had removed to Chickasaw county, Iowa, in the latter '60s. William Tucker, Mrs. De Neut's paternal grandfather, now well advanced in age, was for some twenty years in the United States Treasury Department, in the second auditor's office. He has one brother in South Africa, one in Australia and one in England, all of whom have celebrated their golden wedding anniversaries. At her grandfather's request, Mrs. De Neut corresponds regularly with these great-uncles. By his present wife Mr. De Neut has three children: Charlotte Ethel Lynne, born February 5, 1901; Joseph Tucker, August 4, 1903; and Richard Henry, May 27, 1907.

Politically, Mr. De Neut is a Republican. He is identified, fraternally, with the I. O. O. F., M. B. A. and M. W. A., and his religious faith is that of the Christian church, of which he is a member, and which the family attends.

M. J. LYONS.

M. J. Lyons, proprietor of the Ideal Steam Laundry at Mason City, Iowa, has been engaged in this plant as manager for sixteen years, the last three years of this time being proprietor also. This laundry was established, in 1893, by Butterbaugh & Hoyt. Later, for a time, Mr. Hoyt conducted it alone; then sold an interest to L. P. Herrick, and the firm name became Hoyt & Herrick. Three years later Mr. Hoyt bought his partner's interest, and ran the business alone until December 10, 1906, when Mr. Lyons purchased the plant. It is equipped with the latest and most improved machinery, employs thirty-five to forty hands, and besides handling business for this section of Iowa, receives work from points in Minnesota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. The capacity of the plant is about \$1,000 worth of work per week.

Mr. Lyons was born in Mason City, Iowa, June 25, 1876, and was reared and educated here. At the early age of thirteen he

became a wage worker, at the rate of one dollar per week, and from that small beginning worked his way up to the position he now occupies, that of proprietor of a prosperous concern.

Mr. Lyons' parents, Patrick and Susan (Couley) Lyons, were early residents of Mason City, where his father died, about 1877, in the prime of young manhood. His mother subsequently became the wife of William Dunbar, a shoemaker of Mason City, now deceased. Mrs. Dunbar is still living here, her home being 510 East Seventh street. She has been a resident of this place since shortly after the Civil war, when she came here with her parents. The subject of this sketch is her only child by Mr. Lyons. By her second marriage she has six children, namely: Mrs. H. B. Madsen, Mrs. Charles Hayden, Mrs. Jack Prosivock, William, John and Mabel, all of Mason City.

Mr. Lyons is married and has a family of four children: Ammirta, Clifton, Wilmer and Laurine. Mrs. Lyons, formerly Miss Anna Paulson, is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. K. C. Paulson, her father being a retired farmer and pioneer of Cerro Gordo county. Fraternally, Mr. Lyons is identified with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

L. D. HELM.

One of the estimable and progressive young agriculturists of Cerro Gordo county is L. D. Helm, who is of that sound and sterling stock upon which the material prosperity of this section of the state is securely founded. He is a native Iowan, his birth having occurred September 2, 1878, at Plymouth, this county, and his parents being Matthew and Esther (Blair) Helm. The first of the Helm family in America was the grandfather of him whose name initiates this sketch, Jonathan, who settled in Darlington, Lafayette county, Wisconsin, and was soon numbered among the respected people of that section. His son Matthew, Mr. Helm's father, was born March 7, 1840, and died April 22, 1903. He was a farmer and a man who enjoyed the esteem of his contemporaries, one of his distinctions being a valiant Civil war record. At the time of the inception of the conflict between the states he joined the support of the Union cause, enlisting at Darlington, Wisconsin, August 14, 1862, and being honorably discharged June 16, 1865, at Camp Madison, Wisconsin. Some years after the termination of the war, in 1872 to be exact, Matthew Helm came to Cerro Gordo county, and being pleased with the aspect of things purchased a farm here and remained actively and successfully engaged in this

quarter for the remainder of his life. He and his wife resided upon the farm until the spring of 1899, when they removed to Plymouth, in which place the father died in 1903. The marriage of Mr. Helm's father and mother was solemnized December 16, 1874, the latter Esther Blair Helm, born April 27, 1852, and died December 9, 1909, over seven years after the demise of her faithful and devoted husband, being a daughter of James and Nancy Blair. Both of the parents of Mr. Helm were Methodists, consistent and helpful in the good causes of the church. The father was a life long Democrat and a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity.

L. D. Helm received an excellent education, his preliminary training being acquired in the public schools. He early decided to follow in the parental footsteps in the matter of a life work. He engages in general agriculture and his efforts have been crowned with success. He laid the foundation of a congenial life companionship, when on August 16, 1899, he was united in marriage to Josie Reynolds, daughter of Anna L. and Charles (Henry) Reynolds, the former a native of New Hampshire and the latter of Vermont. The date of their wedding was August 16, 1899, and its scene Plymouth, Iowa. They have become the parents of the following seven children: Winnie E., born May 14, 1900; Flossie M., born September 24, 1901; Harold H., December 7, 1902; Olive E., born February 23, 1905; Wayne L., July 13, 1907; Melvin D., December 15, 1908; and Bruce, July 4, 1910.

Mr. Helm, like his father, has ever given his hand and heart to the men and measures of the Democratic party and his lodge affiliations are with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America. He is one of the well known farmers of the community and can ever be depended upon to give his support to all measures likely to result in the attainment of the greatest good to the greatest number.

WALLACE H. NUTTING.

A thorough going mechanic, active, enterprising and progressive, Wallace H. Nutting occupies a conspicuous position among the leading contractors of Mason City, and as an honest man and a loyal citizen has the confidence and esteem of the community. He was born, November 21, 1865, in Columbia, Wisconsin, coming on the maternal side of New England lineage.

His father, Rufus L. Nutting, was born in New York state, July 14, 1842, and subsequently moved with his parents to a farm in Wisconsin. After his marriage he settled as a farmer in Clark

county, Wisconsin, from there removing, in 1882, to Dane county, Wisconsin. On April 25, 1887, he located at Mason City, Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, and having resumed the mason's trade, which he had learned when young, has since built up a large and lucrative business as a contracting brick and stone mason. He married Mary E. Cummings, who was born, in October, 1842, in Massachusetts, and was there bred and educated. They are the parents of three children, namely: Clarence L., of Mason City; Wallace H.; and Winifred M.

Living on a Wisconsin farm until twenty-two years of age, Wallace H. Nutting received his early education in the district schools, subsequently attending a graded school two winters. Coming with the family to Mason City in 1887, he began working at the carpenter's trade, and for eleven years was in the employ of one man, nine years of that time being foreman of the carpenter gang. Subsequently embarking in business for himself as a contractor, Mr. Nutting, in 1906, had charge of the carpenter work during the building of the Northwestern States Portland Cement Company's plant at Mason City, and was afterwards secretary and manager of the North End Building Company. He is now busily employed in contracting, his services being in demand in all building transactions of importance.

Mr. Nutting married, December 25, 1893, Eliza McKee, who was born in Freeborn county, Minnesota, in 1870, and they have one daughter, Mary B. Nutting. Politically a stanch Republican, Mr. Nutting has represented the Second Ward in the City Council two terms. Fraternally he belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America.

HANS P. FORBERG.

For more than three decades a resident of Mason City, Hans P. Forberg, chief carpenter for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Company, has been actively identified with the advancement of the industrial prosperity of this part of northern Iowa and has gained a position of note among its more worthy and respected citizens. A native of Norway, he was born May 19, 1842, in Trondhjem, a son of Ole and Martha Forberg. When far advanced in years his parents were by him induced to come to America, and having made the dreaded ocean voyage, they located in 1873, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, where both spent their remaining days, the father dying in 1877, at the age of four score and four

years, and the mother, in 1876, aged eighty-one years. Of their four children two are living, as follows: Mrs. Moe of Wisconsin, and Hans P.

Inheriting the natural mechanical tastes of his father, who was a cabinet maker by trade, Hans P. Forberg as a mere child would get up at six o'clock in the morning and work at the bench until time to go to school, and at night hurry home from school to finish the work begun in the morning. Leaving home in 1866, he emigrated to the United States, and for eleven and a half years worked as a cabinet maker and house finisher in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, after which he followed his trade in Milwaukee for two years. In 1869 Mr. Forberg entered the employ of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Company, at Watertown, Wisconsin, working as a carpenter both in the shops and on the road. Transferred to St. Paul, Minnesota, in August, 1871, he took charge of all building operations between St. Paul and LaCrosse, Wisconsin. In May, 1878, he was transferred to Mason City, and in 1882 settled his family here. Continuing with the same company, Mr. Forberg now has full control of all the bridges and buildings on his line of railway between McGregor, Iowa, and Chamberlain, South Dakota. Unable to speak a word of English when he came to this country and with the small sum of two hundred dollars to his name, Mr. Forberg has steadily climbed the ladder of success, his present prosperous condition being due to his own industry, energy and able business management. Politically he is a Republican, and fraternally he is a member of the Knights of Pythias. Religiously he was reared in the Lutheran faith.

Mr. Forberg married, May 15, 1875, Mary Taleson, who was born in Norway, June 2, 1853, and came with her parents, Ole and Synewa Taleson, to Wisconsin in 1855. Her mother died April 18, 1908, aged seventy-nine years, but her father, now eighty years old, is still living in Wisconsin. They reared eight children of whom three are living. Mr. and Mrs. Forberg have two children, Anna, wife of Charles Berger, of Joliet, Illinois, and Clara, wife of Harry Dwyer, of Nashville, Tennessee.

GEORGE H. FULLER.

George H. Fuller, president of the Farmers' State Bank of Rockwell since its organization in 1892, is also an extensive property owner, owning as he does, about six hundred acres in the vicinity. He has been a useful citizen for nearly thirty years, having come here in 1882 from the state of Illinois. Mr. Fuller was born in

Genesee Valley, New York, in October, 1845, his father, Seymour Fuller and his mother before her marriage Eliza Mordoff. The former was born in Vermont in 1817 and died in Belvidere, Boone county, Illinois, in 1897. The mother's birthplace was the state of New York, she was born about 1822, her demise occurring in 1888. The father began his career as a farmer in New York, but in 1846 concluded to cast his fortunes with the new west and came with his family to Illinois. They came by the lakes to Chicago and thence drove through to Belvidere. The head of the house had come previously and had purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land from the government at a dollar and a quarter an acre. They were among the first settlers in that part of the country and quite the first to go on to the prairie to locate. A frame house was constructed with some difficulty and the family moved into it. In those days there was plenty of wild game which helped to solve the problem of livelihood. The father broke the sod, constructed the necessary buildings for stock and so forth and he and his wife lived upon their prairie homestead until their death. They were Baptists and the father voted the Republican ticket. There were four children besides Mr. Fuller; James A., is deceased; Charles E., resides in Washington D. C., where he represents his district in the United States Congress; Du Fay A., is a citizen of Belvidere, Illinois; and May E., is the wife of Frank S. Stockwell of Belvidere.

George H. Fuller received his education in the public schools of Belvidere, and remained at home, assisting upon his father's farm until the attainment of his majority. When he first left the home roof he went to Waverly, Iowa, clerking in a store there for a time and then going on to Dubuque where he was engaged in a similar capacity for two years. In 1870 he removed to Thayer, county, Nebraska, and later to McWebber county, Kansas, taking up claims in both places and selling them. In the course of four or five years he returned to Illinois where he remained for a time. As previously mentioned Mr. Fuller took up his residence in Rockwell in 1882 and for two years was occupied in the grocery business. For the next eight years he engaged in various lines of business and in 1892 when the State Bank of Rockwell was organized he was elected president, which position he has filled to the present time. He is a friend of good education and served on the school board for a great many years. He is a loyal adherent of the Democratic party and enjoys membership in the I. O. O. F.

The date of the marriage of Mr. Fuller is 1886, the lady to become his wife being Miss Ella M. Guth, a native of Woodstock. They are the parents of four children. Du Fay D., is a graduate

of the Drake Law School of Des Moines; Linn G., is a sophomore at Grinnell College; Catherine May is a graduate of the Sacred Heart Academy of Rockwell; and George E., attends the Rockwell high school. All the members of the family belong to the Congregational church with the exception of Mr. Fuller and he contributes liberally to its support.

GEORGE H. FELTHOUS.

One of Rockwell's most prominent and valuable citizens is George H. Felthous, a one time agriculturist, later engaged in the elevator and grain business, and at the head of several progressive movements, among them the establishment of the Rockwell Bank. He was born in Dubuque county, Iowa, August 4, 1848, and is of Teutonic origin, his parents, John H. and Caroline (Foell) Felthous, both having been born in Germany. They emigrated separately to the United States, the father with a brother who died shortly after his arrival upon American shores, and the mother when nineteen years of age in company with her parents. They were married in Dubuque county where the father had taken up farming and where he died in 1869. The mother resides in Rockwell with a daughter and now (in 1910) is past eighty-one years of age. There were four children besides George: Mrs. Louisa C. Specht; John C.; and John Adam and Amelia, the two latter deceased.

George H. Felthous received his education in the public schools of Dubuque county and for one term attended the commercial college at Dubuque. For the following seven years he taught in the county schools during the winter and in the summer devoted his energies to the farm. In June 1869 he made the change which was to prove very far reaching in its effect, coming to Geneseo township, in Cerro Gordo county and purchasing two hundred and eighty acres in sections 17 and 19. He returned to Dubuque county and the following year removed finally to his land where he proceeded to break a quarter section of the wild prairie. In 1871 he undertook the management of a grain business in Rockwell which had been started by others the year previous when the Iowa Central Railroad had been built through. He built a warehouse and in 1874 the elevator. He continued in the grain and elevator business until 1882 when he sold out to his brothers. For the ensuing five years he engaged in buying and improving wild lands in Cerro Gordo county. His present agricultural holdings consist of fifty-six acres in Cerro Gordo county and a tract in Minneapolis.

In 1887 Mr. Felthous established the Rockwell bank, he being sole owner. The capital stock was \$10,000 and the officers, Mr. Felthous and F. R. Putnam, the latter having been associated with the bank for sixteen years. He was succeeded by F. C. Siegfried, the present cashier. The capital stock has been increased to \$25,000 and the bank does considerable business in real estate loans and insurance. When the bank was inaugurated its home was a plain frame building which it occupied until 1892 in which year was built the present substantial brick building with vault and all modern appliances. He built his first Rockwell residence in 1872 and the one now occupied by him and his family in 1883.

Mr. Felthous has given his support to the Republican party through many campaigns and he has given efficient public service in several offices, among them township clerk for several years, member of the school board and of the town council. He was a member of the Rockwell Knights of Pythias until the relinquishment of their charter. Both he and his wife are active and consistent members of the Methodist church in whose good works they are always interested. Mr. Felthous has been superintendent of the Sunday School for a number of years and gave excellent assistance in the building of the church edifice some time since.

Mr. Felthous laid the foundation of a happy home in 1874 in which year he was married to Miss Lucretia M. Lyman, eldest daughter of George E. and Sarah E. Lyman. They have one daughter, Hazel Lou, who is at home. She was graduated in 1909 from Cornell College (Iowa). Mr. and Mrs. Felthous believe in culture and cultivate the finer side of life. Consequently they are good travelers. In 1882 they took a trip to the Pacific coast and in 1900 accompanied by their daughter they visited the Paris Exposition and the Passion Play at Oberammergau. They were abroad for several months and visited England, Ireland, Scotland, Holland, Germany, Austria, Italy, Switzerland and France.

J. H. WHEELER.

That faithful domestic animal, the mule, is said to be without pride of ancestry or hope of posterity. In one respect, at least, I differ from the mule, for I possess pride of ancestry; in another respect however, I fear I bear him some resemblance, for, being a bachelor of advanced age, I have little hope of posterity.

Through my paternal grandmother, Sally Fuller, born in 1785, I claim descent from the Pilgrim Fathers who came over in the Mayflower and landed on Plymouth Rock in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and twenty.

Through my paternal grandfather, Weston Wheeler, born in 1783, I claim descent from Puritan forbears who came from the shores of the old to those of the New England during the first half of the first century of its settlement.

Tradition hath it that the Wheeler's were of good fighting stock and did their share in the interminable wars in which the Colonies were engaged during the century and a half that intervened between the first settlement of New England and the Revolution.

At Bunker Hill my paternal great-grandfather, Josiah Wheeler, then only twenty years old, under Colonel John Stark, helped construct the breastwork of rails and new mown grass and from behind that improvised and frail defense gave the British regulars ball for ball until his ammunition gave out. He fought at White Plains, at Princeton and Trenton and at Bennington and Saratoga. His last exploit was at the very close of the war and after he had retired from the service, at the burning of Royalton. His time having expired, Josiah Wheeler had retired from the service in 1779 and married Miss Naney Howe. In 1782, or thereabouts, he had taken his wife and child, a team of horses and his earthly possessions and settled on the New Hampshire Grants, in the township of Royalton. In 1783, the last year of the war, a body of British and Indians raided and "burned" Royalton, killing and taking prisoner the people and carrying off or destroying the property. At the time, my great-grandmother was confined to her bed with a babe only three days old. She was taken from her bed and mounted on horseback and her oldest child, two years of age, was mounted with her, while the nurse with the three days old babe was mounted on the other horse and the two women were told to ride for their lives. My great-grandfather took his musket and, with his neighbors and other rallying settlers, went to fight and turn back these last invaders of American soil during the Revolution. The babe borne by the nurse was my grandfather, Weston Wheeler.

When my grandfather was sixteen years old he wore crepe in mourning for George Washington. He served in the Vermont militia during the war of 1812 and is said to have been present at the battle of Lake Champlain. He was married sometime before the war to Miss Sally Fuller, a young lady from Connecticut, by whom he had ten children. Of these, my father, William Wheeler, was the youngest, being born April 17, 1824. My grandfather was a man of more than ordinary ability and force of character and was well educated and had good standing as a strong churchman

and citizen. He removed with his family in 1836 to Crawford county, Pennsylvania, and with him, as a part of his family, came my father, who was then twelve years old.

When my father was twenty-two years of age, he very sensibly married Miss Susannah Fry. Susannah is Hebrew for lily. The fair lily my father found growing in "Penn's Woods" and, like a wise man, gathered to himself, became my mother. My father has slept in a soldier's grave this five and forty years, dead on the field of honor, but my mother, still a widow, still true to the one love of her youth, is with me yet. She is wrinkled and old and gray now, weighted down with the burdens of four score and four, but I can remember her when she was tall and straight and young and fair, with hair like the raven's wing. My father, with his family, moved to Iowa in 1854, settling in Allamakee county. In August, 1862, he enlisted in Company A, 27th Regiment of Iowa Volunteer Infantry and on the night of May 30th, 1865, he died in the United States hospital at Prairie du Chien, of disease contracted during General Banks inglorious Red River campaign.

My own story is soon told. I was born more than sixty years since, on the banks of the "Little Conneaut Creek," in Crawford county, Pennsylvania, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty eight. I was born in a large, rambling old farm house built by my grandfather. In 1854 my father brought me to Iowa. During the winter of 1854-5 my father built what was then considered a large log house. In that log house, which had grown old before I finally left it forever, I lived the happiest years of my life, for it was there I was a boy and it was there I grew up. After I grew up I was elected justice of the peace, read some law and was admitted to the bar. I promptly convicted my first client and then went to Dakota Territory, seeking after other clients to convict. In the meantime I had got religion, joined the church and came within an ace of becoming a preacher.

In Dakota I did fairly well. I settled at Mandan, the county seat of Morton county, and, at that time, 1883, a flourishing railroad town and frontier metropolis and was supposed to be a coming Omaha. Besides convicting a few more clients, I got into politics, was made chairman of the Republican county committee, organized a political machine that could show Tammany points of improvement, and became a political boss, or rather a sub-boss under Alexander McKenzie, the political king of North Dakota and one of the most sagacious and successful political leaders of machine politics the country has ever produced. Since I have grown old and impotent, I have reformed, but McKenzie, vigorous in health, a giant

in body and intellect, has kept on his devious ways, a political boss in North Dakota, a railroad lobbyist in Washington and, at one time in apparent danger of a federal prison in Alaska. When I knew and worked with him in the long ago, McKenzie had a sound head, a good heart and was true as steel to those who trusted him. His only misfortune was that he worked for the "Corporations" and, therefore, for a master without a soul. I was also a member of the Republican Territorial Committee and when I decided to leave the territory, was permitted to name my successor on the committee. I selected Major A. E. Bovay of Ripon, Wisconsin, but at that time at the head of a colony he had established at Glen Ullin in Morton county. Major Bovay has the honor of being the founder of the Republican party.

I was county attorney for Morton county, which at that time had all of Dakota west of the Missouri river between the Big Sioux Reservation and the British line attached to it for judicial and other purposes. The law, however, is a jealous mistress and, physically at least, its exactions were too strenuous for me and I gave it up and became, first, city editor of the daily *Mandan Pioneer* and then of the *Bismarck Commercial*. I have dabbled in newspaper work ever since.

It was during my sojourn in the "West Missouri Country" of northern Dakota, that I met two men who afterward became known the world over. One of these men was Marquis De Mores and the other Theodore Roosevelt. At that time, 1882 to 1887, the two were leading ranchers of that land of bad lands, buttes and coulees. De Mores was a French nobleman, who had married an American heiress, a noted duelist and soldier of fortune. After many adventures in different lands, he was finally treacherously slain by his Tuareg escort south of Tripoli, Africa, while crossing the Desert of Sahara on his way to Fashoda on the Upper Nile. As for Roosevelt, at that time, San Juan Hill, the Presidency, Africa and his return to civilization in a greater than Roman triumph, were all before him.

My health, which has always been a millstone around my neck, did not thrive in the climate of Dakota. This fact, together with a constant longing for Iowa, which at times amounted to actual homesickness, decided me to return to the Hawkeye state. Returning to Iowa, I settled in Cerro Gordo county and have been here ever since. Its people have been my people, its God my God, and here I expect to die and be buried.

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